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BBC in uproar over revamp of news organisation

By RAYMOND SNODDY
MEDIA EDITOR

THE BBC has announced a radical shake-up of its news organisation which will mean that radio and television programmes are made by the same production teams and programmes such as *Today* and *Newsnight* will no longer have their own separate editors.

Journalists expressed outrage at the

plans, fearing that the individuality and quality of programmes would be affected; a number of editors were said to be considering resigning. One senior news executive said last night his reaction was "a mixture of disbelief and despair".

Jocelyn Hay, chairman of the Viewers and Listeners Association, the body that campaigns for quality broadcasting said: "This is most alarming. On the face of it this sounds extraordinary."

Mrs Hay said that she was concerned that there would be a loss of individuality in news programmes, adding: "It is absolutely extraordinary that a change of this magnitude should be going ahead without consultation."

The changes are being implemented

with lightning speed and the new executive editors are to be chosen in the next

RAYMOND SNODDY

'The Government is seriously contemplating a decision that could change the face of television'

— Page 23

couple of weeks. "Our plan is for the new structure to take effect from October 1 with executive editors working up "shadow administrations" in anticipation of co-sitting," the letter said.

Co-sitting refers to the plan to bring BBC news staff together in a new building

called Stage Six, at White City, West London, where all news output will come from teams capable of producing programmes for both radio and television.

Richard Clemmow, the head of news, is believed to have fought to keep separate teams for the two media. But a single team will be responsible for all the main Radio 4 and BBC1 news bulletins, and another will provide summaries for all BBC stations and channels.

The third team will produce the Radio Four sequences, such as *Today* and *The World Tonight*, and the fourth will make BBC's *Breakfast News* and *Newsnight* for BBC2. Those two groups will work side by side.

Last night Mr Clemmow, a former deputy editor of *Newsnight*, said that he had absolutely no intention of presiding

over any homogenising of BBC news output and that associate editors would take a close interest in individual programmes.

The restructuring was designed "to help us to maintain the high quality of our programmes on TV and radio despite reduced budgets by making the most of the opportunities presented by co-sitting and new technology."

Individual programmes have been asked to cut costs by 30 per cent over the next five years, partly to help to pay for the introduction of new digital television channels.

Senior BBC news executives acknowledge privately that they have a lot of talking to do days to explain the plans to staff and they accept that, at the moment, many are vehemently opposed to the

reorganisation. One BBC journalist who asked to remain anonymous because of "a real climate of fear" said: "Editors are, to a man and a woman, dead against it. They protested in vain and have now simply been told that it's being implemented. The views of producers and presenters are unprintable."

The plan is the latest in the efforts of John Birt, the BBC Director-General to combine modernising the corporation with the introduction of digital technology. The corporation is prepared to spend up to £1 billion on its digital plans over the next five years, and it faces huge costs on two fronts. The first is equipping the BBC with the necessary technology, and the second the launch of a number of digital television channels, including a 24-hour service due to start in November.

Talks in jeopardy after bombing

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Government was struggling to rescue Northern Ireland's fragile peace talks last night after a 400lb bomb exploded in the heart of the tiny County Armagh town of Market Hill on market day.

The Ulster Unionist Party, which was close to joining the Stormont peace process, immediately blamed the IRA for the attack, in which nobody was injured, and demanded that Sinn Féin be expelled from the talks.

The IRA swiftly telephoned the state television company in Dublin to deny responsibility. British security sources said the probable culprit was the Continuity Army Council, a republican splinter group that has denounced the ceasefire.

Gerry Adams, Sinn Féin's president, failed to condemn the bombing but expressed "regret" and accused the UUP of using the incident as a further pretext to avoid negotiations.

The Loyalist Volunteer Force, which has also refused to join the general ceasefire, threatened retaliation.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, George Mitchell, the American talks chairman, and other political leaders said the bomb was a blatant attempt to sabotage the talks.

Dr Mowlam was meeting Mr Trimble, the UUP leader, last night but his efforts to coax the party into direct negotiations with Sinn Féin in

the next few days appeared to have been dealt a major setback.

The bomb was in a blue transit van parked at the cattle market and next to Market Hill's RUC station. It exploded at 11.54am, 34 minutes after a warning was telephoned to the BBC by a caller who gave no code word. The police were still evacuating the area, including a primary school and Edward Graham, the RUC Chief Inspector, said it was a miracle there were no deaths.

"Anyone who knows Market Hill knows this is the busiest day of the week. Certainly if police hadn't been on the scene as quickly as they were I have no doubt that hospitals and mortuaries would have been full," he said.

Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC chief constable, said it was a professional and carefully-planned bombing conducted "with total disregard" for the safety of innocent people.

The bomb — Market Hill's fifth since the troubles began — was heard 10 miles away and left a 15ft crater 4ft deep. The cattle market and about eight cars were wrecked and the RUC station and nearby homes and businesses were damaged.

People were treated for shock and several cows had to be put down.

News of the bomb reached Belfast just as the UUP leadership was debating whether to go to Stormont later in the day. That would have been a major breakthrough because the talks cannot progress without the UUP.

Instead Mr Trimble and two fellow MPs drove to the scene of the bomb as if to underscore the reasons why they have been so reluctant to negotiate.

Mr Trimble said the circumstances and location of the attack pointed to the IRA. He sent Mr Mitchell a fax noting the IRA's rejection of the Mitchell principles of demom-

Continued on page 2, col 4



The devastation at the centre of Market Hill, Co. Armagh, yesterday after a bomb went off. The IRA denied responsibility and a splinter group opposed to talks was blamed

Princess's bodyguard is awake and talking

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE bodyguard who survived the crash that killed Diana, Princess of Wales, has spoken for the first time after a rapid improvement in his condition. French hospital officials said yesterday.

Police were on hand at La Pitié-Salpêtrière hospital when Trevor Rees-Jones, 29, uttered his first words. His immediate family were also there.

Professor Pierre Coriat, a consultant at the hospital, said: "Mr Rees-Jones's condition has markedly improved. He is conscious, able to talk, although very easily tired. During the next few days he should be able to eat and recover complete autonomy."

Mr Rees-Jones suffered severe face, head and chest injuries in the crash on August 31 and probably survived only because he was wearing a seatbelt. Doctors said that he has recovered quickly after ten

hours of surgery to reconstruct his lower face and jaw. "Mr Rees-Jones's condition has improved markedly," the hospital said. "We have been able to take him off the artificial respirator and the infection and wounds to his lungs are under control."

It was not known whether



Rees-Jones: no longer needs a ventilator

Mr Rees-Jones, who remains in the hospital's intensive care unit under 24-hour police guard, had been informed of the deaths of the princess and Dodi Fayed, his employer.

The bodyguard's testimony is crucial to the police investigation into the cause of the crash, but fears remain that — in spite of the upbeat medical report — the shock of the accident and the anaesthetic used during the long operation may result in partial, temporary or even total loss of memory about the moments before the crash.

Relatives of Henri Paul, the driver who died in the crash with the Princess and Mr Fayed, have called for police reinforcements for his funeral in Lorient on Saturday. They say they fear that someone may wish to "avenge" the Princess's death.

Letters, page 19



Doctors seeking 10 per cent rise

Doctors' leaders demanded a 10 per cent pay increase and said the Government would be guilty of moral blackmail if it did not pay. But the employers said that any settlement over 2.75 per cent would cause serious difficulties.

The NHS Confederation said doctors had received higher awards than other medical staff for two years, and it would be "unhelpful" if they were seen to do better than other groups. Page 2

Royal Mint offers a thought for your pennies

By ALAN HAMILTON

RAID your piggy banks. Break open your gallon whisky bottles. Dive down the back of your sofas. The nation is suffering an acute shortage of pennies. With Christmas already uncomfortably close, the Royal Mint has launched a campaign to recover the smallest coin of the realm, which is disappearing from circulation even faster than it is becoming worthless. You cannot buy a single Woodbine for a penny nowadays but if they persist in selling shoes at £49.99 or a pint of beer at £1.79, the penny still has its place in the country's loose change.

The Mint is encouraging penny

hoarders to deposit their haul at their nearest main post office, where the cash equivalent will be donated to the Save The Children Fund, and the coins will go back into circulation. Just to be clear about that, you will hand the money over and get nothing back.

According to the Mint, there should be 7,200 million penny coins in circulation but up to a third of them are imprisoned in bottles and piggy banks or lost down the furniture. To keep up with demand from the banks, the Mint last year produced another 741 million penny pieces.

It does not like doing this, as small coins inevitably become more expensive to produce than their face value. A

simple magnet test will prove what a debased coin the penny, once minted in silver, now is. Beneath its shiny copper-plated exterior, it is of the same material as a 1972 Lada — mild steel.

The Mint hopes that its campaign, entitled *Every Penny Counts*, will recover 100 million coins. But it is worth it given that the decimal halfpenny died from lack of interest in 1984, after only 13 years in circulation. "The penny will be with us into the next century; it is still an important item of change and we believe there is still the occasional slot machine in seaside amusement arcades that will accept it," the Mint said.

But what of all the giant Bell's

whisky bottles on pub counters, bursting with pennies for cancer research, or the blind, or the local hospice, worthy causes all? "Take them to the bank and write a cheque to the charity concerned. The charity will get its money and the banks will get the coins to put back into circulation."

Next month the Mint introduces its bimetallic £2 coin, silver-coloured in the middle with a gold-coloured edge and, in its early production at least, immune to magnets. How long before we carelessly drop them down the settee, and the Mint has to institute a hunt to get them back? Probably when a pint of beer is £18 and we need them for change from a £20 Faraday.

In Esquire this month: WORLD EXCLUSIVE EXTRACT OF MARTIN AMIS'S NEW NOVEL, NIGHT TRAIN

PLUS

"Look what happened to the last minister of sport who wore a Chelsea shirt"
Tony Banks Esq

"The first time I had sex was with Steph down an alleyway in Brighton"
Phil Daniels Esq

"I do wish I could've met Bob Marley. I'd say, 'Rastafari. How you feelin?'"
Finley Quay Esq

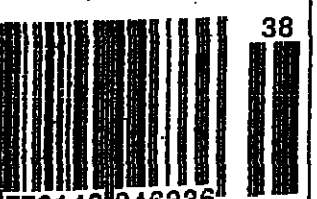


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Blair forgoes pay increase to defuse public sector row

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Prime Minister moved swiftly to defuse a growing dispute over public sector pay yesterday by announcing that he would forgo a £40,000 salary rise next year and take only an inflation-linked increase.

Last night there were indications that the whole Cabinet might follow suit by not taking their £16,000 increases. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, and Alistair Darling, his deputy, were the first to let it be known that they, too, intended to show restraint.

Several others indicated that they were unhappy about taking big rises at a time of sacrifice for public sector workers and there were strong signs that they would take a collective decision before February, when the increases come into effect.

Tony Blair's U-turn, which directly contradicted statements from Downing Street only 14 hours earlier, coincided with a tough warning from the Treasury that public sector pay rises next year should be kept low. The Government's

FALLING VALUE

In real terms the pay of the Prime Minister has fallen sharply since 1931, when Earl Grey received £5,000 a year, the equivalent of £220,000 today. If MPs' pay had increased only in line with inflation over the past 50 years, it would now stand at £21,480 rather than almost £44,000, while the Prime Minister's would have reached £215,000.

evidence to the pay review bodies, published yesterday, makes clear that the Treasury will not provide extra money to fund settlements next year. It urges the review bodies to give that priority over other considerations.

The Prime Minister's decision to forgo a 40 per cent pay rise, which would have taken his salary to £143,800, followed an outcry from doctors and nurses' leaders after re-

ports, confirmed by Downing Street, said he would take his full salary next year. At the same time they heard that the £80 billion public sector pay bill would be frozen.

On Monday evening Downing Street was briefing that Mr Blair had deferred his rise for a year, but would take his full entitlement, an extra £41,000, next year. After damaging headlines yesterday, Mr Blair denied the reports and said he would not take the "bulk" of the extra rise.

He was put under further pressure by doctors' leaders, who called for a 10 per cent rise for medical staff. By lunchtime Downing Street went further and made clear that Mr Blair would take only an inflation-linked rise of about £3,000 on his £102,417 salary. The Cabinet Office confirmed that all ministerial pensions would be linked to entitlement rather than take-up.

Mr Darling's call for "firm and fair" but low pay rises for public sector workers for the forthcoming pay round will put huge pressure on other Cabinet ministers. With teachers, nurses and doctors set for average rises of about 3 per cent, ministers would find it hard to justify 20 per cent increases for themselves.

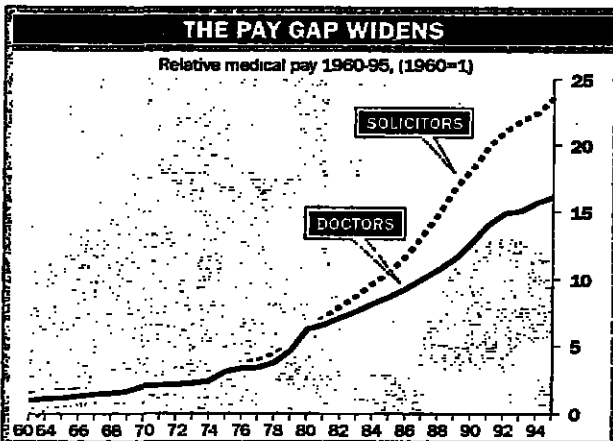
The Senior Salaries Review Body recommended last year that ministers should get substantial pay rises but the Cabinet confirmed after the General Election in May that they would defer the rises for a year.

William Hague accused Labour of "incredible hypocrisy". The Tory leader said everyone should limit themselves to inflation-only pay rises next year, claiming he would do the same.

Labour said Mr Hague had already taken his full entitlement of £98,860 once he became leader of the Opposition. Mr Blair took only £66,132 when he was Opposition leader.

"If Mr Hague says that they should only get inflation increases, he should hand back his own huge pay rise this year," a Labour spokesman said. A Central Office spokesman confirmed that Mr Hague had taken his full entitlement.

Public sector unions urged the Government to give them a fair deal and honour any recommendations from their own pay review bodies. John Monks, TUC general secretary, asked Mr Darling to receive a TUC delegation to help to thrash out what would be a difficult pay round.



Doctors call for 10 per cent rise

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

DOCTORS' leaders demanded a 10 per cent pay increase worth £400 million yesterday and said that the Government would be guilty of moral blackmail if it was not prepared to provide enough money to meet the claim.

At the same time the NHS Confederation, representing the employers, said that the entire £1.2 billion extra being given to the NHS next year was already spoken for and any pay settlement over 2.75 per cent would create serious difficulties. The British Medi-

cal Association says that the ten per cent rise they are seeking would only be a first step towards closing the 53 per cent gap which has opened up with professions such as solicitors, accountants and auditors over the past 16 years.

Dr Sandy Macgregor, the BMA chairman said: "We are being morally blackmailed. I do not believe doctors will take any action that will make patients suffer." From December 1 GPs will get an average £46,450 and consultants a maximum basic of £56,470.



William Hague: many senior Tories believe that his attack on Blair was unwise

Tory critics round on Hague's advisers

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND PHILIP WEBSTER

GROWING concern is being voiced within the Shadow Cabinet at the quality of public relations advice being offered to William Hague.

A number of Shadow ministers are worried about Mr Hague's decision to accuse Tony Blair of making political capital from the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales. Although most have backed Mr Hague in public, in private they believe that he has been unwise.

The knives are out for Alan Duncan, a party vice-chairman who as Mr Hague's parliamentary political secretary is in effect his personal media chief. At a Shadow Cabinet meeting tonight, however, Mr Hague will try to head off criticism by confirming that Gregor Mackay, 29, a former ministerial special adviser, will take over shortly.

Mr Mackay's appointment was being seen in some quar-

ters as a rebuff for Mr Duncan, who was campaign manager during Mr Hague's leadership bid. Tory insiders are blaming Mr Duncan for precipitating Mr Hague's attack on Mr Blair with his comments to Sunday newspaper reporters.

Most of them accept that Mr Hague's accusations that Labour officials briefed the press in a way calculated to put Buckingham Palace in a poor light cannot be sustained. One Tory said: "The real issue tonight will be how long can William continue to take the flak he's had. It's been savage and it's carrying on."

Tory insiders are making vitriolic attacks on Mr Duncan, who they say is trying to be for Mr Hague what Peter Mandelson is for Mr Blair. "I know Alan Duncan and he is no Peter Mandelson," one Tory official said. Another said that Mr Dun-

can was "obsessed with short-term commando raids" and did not think in strategic terms. "He is like a rabbit in the headlights. He can't see further than Mandelson and Blair. He can't stop talking about them."

Lord Parkinson, the party chairman, is among those who think that Mr Hague has been badly advised, according to Central Office sources.

Last night a friend of Mr Duncan said that he was aware that he was under fire and regarded himself as a "lightning conductor" for criticism. The friend added: "A small core of people have kept the show on the road over the summer and until the death of the Princess we were doing rather well. William has been working almost alone. Who else in the Shadow Cabinet has been making the news? This criticism is playing into an anti-Tory mood."

NEWS IN BRIEF

EC warns Britain on illegal beef exports

The European Commission is to start proceedings against Britain, alleging breaches of the beef export ban. It follows the discovery last spring that thousands of tonnes had been shipped out, mainly through Belgium and The Netherlands. Under infringement proceedings, Britain will be given evidence and told to demonstrate that it has ended the alleged breach. The case is likely to stop short of the European Court as Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, closed meat plants suspected of shipping meat for export last July.

□ The Government is to pay compensation of between £90,000 and £140,000 to the families of five people who died from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease after receiving growth hormone treatment.

Citizen's Charter revived

The Citizen's Charter is to be relaunched after a consultation exercise to find out what people want from public services. A panel of up to 5,000 voters is expected to be chosen to take part in the project, which was announced by the Public Service Minister, David Clark. The charter was ridiculed by Labour when it began five years ago, but Dr Clark said yesterday it had improved standards.

Pollution fines plea

Ed Gallagher, chief executive of the Environment Agency, urged the courts to impose tougher fines, running into millions, on firms that pollute. He told the agency's annual meeting that, at present, fines were paltry and failed to reflect damage done to the environment. They also failed to reflect the costs of policing the environment or change the culture of pollution in some boardrooms.

Ashdown plea on PR

Paddy Ashdown will today call for urgent progress towards electoral reform at the first meeting of the joint Labour and Liberal Democrat Cabinet committee. He will urge the establishment of the promised commission on proportional representation before MPs return on October 27. The new committee, comprising five senior Liberal Democrats and five senior Labour ministers, will be chaired by Tony Blair.

Sixties posters top bill

Concert posters, handbills and flyers from the Sixties "Summer of Love" raised more than £127,000 at Bonhams. The collection, for concerts from Jimi Hendrix to The Grateful Dead, included more than 500 posters from the Art of Rock Vaults in San Francisco. Posters for Hendrix, Led Zeppelin, The Doors and Bob Dylan fetched £4,000.

Former Palace chef dies

One of the Queen's longest-serving household staff has died aged 70. Peter Page joined Buckingham Palace in 1940 as a kitchen boy and rose to become head chef of the Royal Household. He retired in 1989 but continued to work occasionally for Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. A Palace source said he had been respected as *chef de cuisine* who ruled his kitchen with a rod of iron.

Boy stabbed in school

A 15-year-old boy was stabbed by a fellow pupil after being lured out of his classroom. Police said his attacker struck in a corridor at Christ the King Roman Catholic School, Preston, after telling the boy that the headmaster wanted him. The victim, who had a knife embedded in his back, was taken to hospital, where he was in a stable condition last night. A 15-year-old boy was arrested.

Blake's 7 back on radio

The science fiction series *Blake's 7*, which aimed to be Britain's answer to *Star Trek*, is to be revived by the BBC for radio. The return of the programme, last seen on television in 1981, is a victory for the fan clubs across Europe and the United States. A 90-minute episode, *The Sevenfold Crown*, using most of the original actors, will be broadcast in January on Radio 4.

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Ulster

Continued from page 1

cracy and non-violence last week and calling for Sinn Féin's election.

Ken Maginnis, the UUP's security spokesman, said Markethill was on the edge of an IRA stronghold and the bombing could not have occurred without the IRA's involvement or acquiescence. He believed it was designed to keep the UUP out of the talks, and to silence Seamus Mallon, the deputy leader of the nationalist SDLP who lives in Markethill and has been criticising the republican movement.

But senior British security sources said the size and composition of the bomb bore the CAC's hallmarks, and doubted there was any IRA involvement.

Dr Mowlam, who had been doing her best to coax the UUP to talks, said she was outraged by the attack, which appeared to be a deliberate attempt to sabotage the talks process, and called on all those who wanted lasting peace in Northern Ireland to "redouble their efforts to get the talks going".

Mr Mitchell said the bomb was "obviously an effort to blow up not just a police station but also the talks process. It cannot be permitted to succeed."

Rail query failures punished

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

TRAIN operators were fined £250,000 and rebuked yesterday for their "intolerable" performance in failing to meet targets for answering telephone inquiries.

Companies running the national timetable inquiry service failed to achieve the target of answering 90 per cent of calls, leaving more than 250,000 passengers in one week unable to get information.

John Swift, the Rail Regulator, announced that the companies would be fined immediately and would face further financial penalties if they failed to improve the service.

Train operators, who fund the inquiry service, were told last month that they had to answer 90 per cent of calls over a four-week period to escape fines. Although they achieved it last week, they reached only 85 per cent over the month and the fine will be paid by the 25 operators.

Mr Swift has yet to impose tougher targets on operators to answer calls within 30 seconds.

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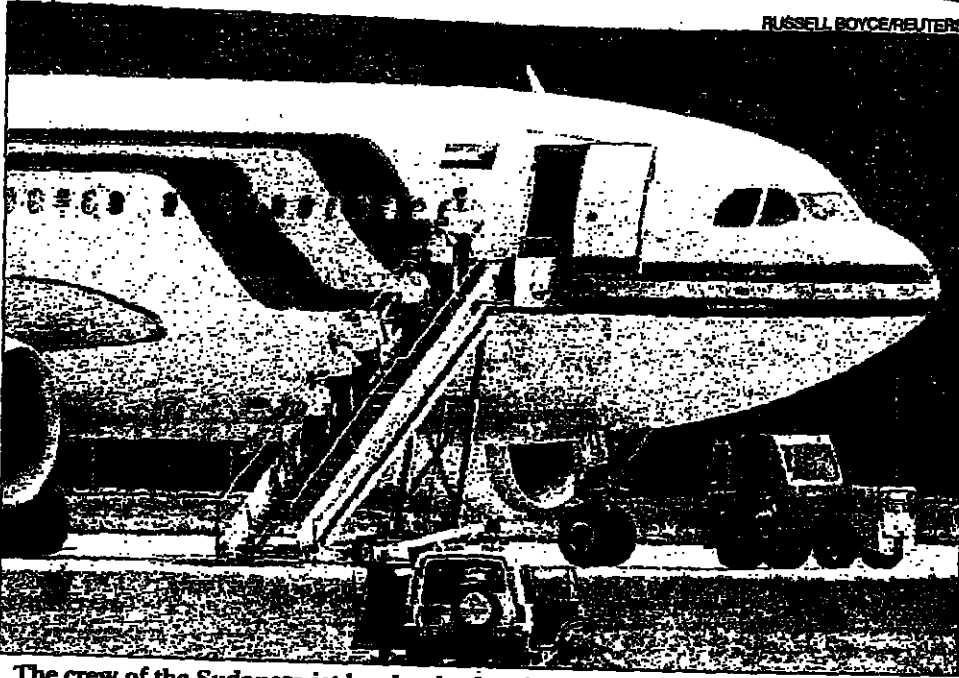
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Iraqi 'hijacked jet to get fiancée to Britain'



The crew of the Sudanese jet leaving it after the hijack ended at Stansted last year

Court is told that gang with fake grenades forced diversion to Stansted, reports Michael Horsnell

A HIJACKED Sudanese plane was forced to land at Stansted airport because the leader of an Iraqi gang on board wanted to smuggle his fiancée and her family into Britain, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

The 186 passengers and 11 crew, en route from Khartoum to Amman, were freed and the hijackers from the Sudanese Airlines Airbus arrested after protracted negotiations on the ground in Essex last year.

David Calvert-Smith, QC, for the prosecution, said the gang was armed with two sauce bottles they had taken

from a restaurant, filled with salt and bound with black tape to look like grenades. They also had craft knives which had been taken apart and smuggled aboard in a basket of children's toys.

Threats to blow up the aircraft, kill passengers and open the doors to throw out a victim were made during the 20 hours in which the hijackers controlled the plane, the prosecution alleged. An air hostess and a 12-year-old girl were seized as a way of enforcing their demands, Mr Calvert-Smith said.

Adnan Hoshan, the gang

leader, a student who had lived in England since 1987 and hoped to remain, became engaged by arrangement to an Iraqi in April 1996 and travelled to Amman in Jordan to meet her, it was alleged.

He decided to hijack a plane after an attempt to bribe an official in Sudan to get her and her family air tickets failed. The court was told that he said he paid for a gun to be smuggled aboard a plane, but none was.

The prosecution alleges that five other Iraqis, some of whom claimed they were in fear of the Iraqi regime, took



Drawing of, from left, Adnan Hoshan, Mohammed Muhssin, Mustafa Hussin, Maged Nagi, Hasah Hasan, Saheb Aboud, and Sabah Nagi in court

part in the hijack and a sixth plotted with them.

In the dock with Hoshan, 39, are Saheb Aboud, 31, unemployed; Hasah Hasan, 34, self-employed; Mustafa Hussin, 33, student; Maged Nagi, 36, unemployed; and Muhammad Muhssin, 39, a clothing worker. All deny hijacking an aircraft by unlawful threats to use weapons in their possession. A seventh defendant, Sabah Nagi, 29, a carpenter, denies conspiracy.

Mr Calvert-Smith said none was a member of any political party or religious group. "They are simply Iraqis who found themselves in Sudan and wanted to come to this country."

"Others of the accused, rightly or wrongly thought this country had a reputation as a respecter of human rights" — and would hear an application for political asylum, he said.

"There are aspects of the hijack which, viewed with hindsight, seem amateurish or

even comic," he told the jury. "But just in case you are tempted to view it as comic, imagine flying on holiday with your family and being confronted with six hostile or hysterical men, brandishing knives and what they claimed were grenades, and threatening to blow up the plane — kill passengers, or even, on at least one occasion, open doors and throw someone out."

The hijack began when Muhssin allegedly grabbed an air hostess by the throat at

knifepoint and dragged her towards the pilot's cabin "to persuade the captain to do what the hijackers wanted", Mr Calvert-Smith said.

The pilot, Captain Abdul Hamid Hidirbi, had learnt of the hijack over the intercom and went to see what was going on. "His instant and sensible assessment was not to take any chances and he indicated he was surrendering the plane and would fly the hijackers wherever they wished to go," Mr Calvert-

Smith said. The air hostess was tied up and a passenger suspected of being an Iraqi intelligence officer was bound, gagged and attacked.

A group which had overpowered Muhssin were punched, kicked and bound, it was alleged.

"One resisted and struck out. Revenge was immediate. He was stabbed in the arm with one of the butcher's knives and seriously injured," Mr Calvert-Smith said.

The trial continues today.

Mother found guilty of killing handicapped daughter

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A MOTHER was found guilty yesterday of killing her severely handicapped 14-month-old daughter by pulling out a breathing tube as the girl lay in a hospital bed.

Julie Watts, 31, a former psychiatric nurse, was cleared by a jury at Manchester Crown Court of murder but convicted on an alternative charge of manslaughter after almost six hours of deliberation.

Watts, who clung to her solicitor sitting beside her in the dock as the verdict was delivered, now faces sentencing by Mr Justice Sachs next Thursday. A murder charge attracts a compulsory life sentence but, with a manslaughter verdict, the judge has much wider discretion to impose a probationary or suspended jail sentence.

Mr Justice Sachs remanded Watts on bail until sentencing and asked the Probation Service to draw up reports. He told counsel for the defence, Richard Henriques, QC: "I have no intention of sending her into custody, at least not immediately."

At the end of a highly-charged, 12-day trial, Watts was led out by the defence team as she sobbed: "I never did it."

Abigail was born with a rare skull deformity, called clover leaf syndrome, which left her brain-damaged, deformed, deaf and unable to breathe or feed without help. She could not even close her eyes properly. For 14 months her mother was constantly by

her side providing around-the-clock care. She took a central role in changing her breathing tube and dressings and sitting at her bedside through the night to check she was breathing properly.

On at least one occasion Watts, of Little Hulton, Greater Manchester, saved Abigail's life with emergency resuscitation.

Peter Openshaw, QC, for the prosecution, told the court that shortly before Abigail was due to return home after a two-night stay at the end of July 1995, staff at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital heard Watts crying hysterically for help.

They found the tracheotomy tube, on which she depended for her life, had been removed from Abigail's throat and the tapes which secured it untied. Abigail suffered respiratory failure leading to cardiac arrest.

Watts, who has an eight-year-old son, Philip, and gave birth to a baby daughter, Holly, last November, denied both charges. She said she would never have done anything to harm Abigail and told the jury: "I was never tired of caring for her and if I could have her back tomorrow, I would do the same thing all over again."

Detective Superintendent Bill Kerr, who headed the investigation, said: "It has been a difficult case for everyone, and everyone involved in it cannot fail to have been affected by the circumstances of this child's death."

Officer's party can go ahead with help from RAF

By LIN JENKINS

A SENIOR RAF officer who sparked a row by commandeering air force equipment for his daughter's 21st birthday celebrations has been told that the party can go ahead.

The use of tents, trestle tables and lights loaned from RAF Odiham, near Basingstoke, Hampshire, had brought criticism over the use of military resources.

Air Commodore Peter Crawford had borrowed ten tents, six tables, lights and fire extinguishers for a party in the garden of a friend's Hampshire farmhouse on Saturday. His daughter, Nicola, is having a joint celebration with friends. The equipment was delivered to the farmhouse, and a disgruntled serviceman tipped off a national newspaper.

Senior officers said that normal procedures appeared to have been followed. Air Commodore Crawford, who is on a year-long training course at the Royal College of Defence Studies, had paid in full the costs of transport and made a "substantial" donation to station funds.

The Ministry of Defence said that equipment was available for loan to personnel of all ranks for civilian activities such as village fêtes if not in use at the time.

Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat defence spokesman, said it was likely the parliamentary Defence Select Committee would raise the matter. "The amounts involved here may not be all that great but there is an issue of principle," he added.



How Sir Ranulph Fiennes Whether in Saharan sands or in frozen arctic wastes, Sir Ranulph is always in the right place at the right time.

Fiennes would never set out without his Rolex. "I've navigated across the world, right through both Poles with it," he explains.

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He wears a GMT-Master which, "has never let me down, in all those years."

When asked whether he would ever consider embarking on an expedition with a different watch, Sir Ranulph Fiennes' reply, although

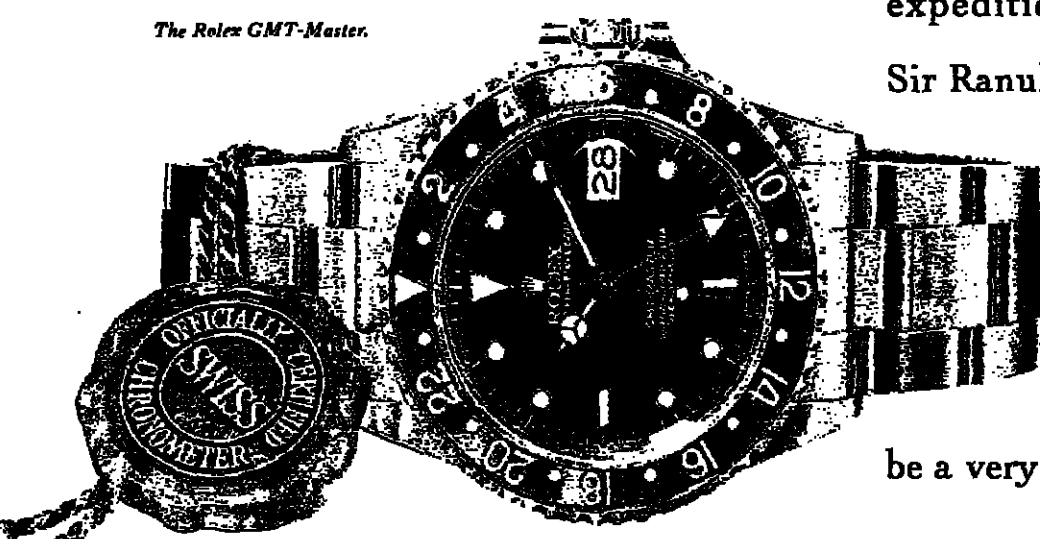
terse, is in fact a supreme compliment.

"Oh no," he says briskly.

"I think that would

be a very stupid risk to take."

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Word spreads as US goes the Full Monty

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

THE success of a British film about unemployed steelworkers who become strippers has reversed the trend of films which spread American slang to Britain. This time, trendy Americans have changed their vocabulary to include *The Full Monty*.

Only five weeks after its release, the film has risen to No 3 in the box-office charts, and talk-show hosts are now using the expression for doing the maximum. Everyone seems to understand it.

"The unlikely hit cost its makers, Fox Searchlight Pictures, about £2 million to produce, and has already earned nearly £2.6 million

in ticket sales. It opened last month at only 45 theatres, but is now running at 387 and many more are clamouring to screen it. Its takings for each screening are the highest in America, exceeding those for *The Game*, Hollywood's biggest new release.

The film, set in Sheffield, has its heroes defeating their inhibitions and poverty by stripping naked in a one-night club act. One film critic described them as "the Chippendales with love handles". Critics have also welcomed a break from Hollywood violence, car chases and formulaic blockbusters.

The New York Times said

that *The Full Monty* "will probably emerge as the one of the most successful small-screen movies in years". Other newspapers — from the *Omaha World-Herald* to the *Los Angeles Times* — have urged their readers to rush to the film. It follows other British successes, *Brassed Off* and *Trainspotting*, in portrayals of "dole-class" Britons, with on-screen realism of industrial wastelands, working-class despair and blue-collar humour.

At breakfast in New York, I tried the expression on my waitress, asking for "bacon, eggs, toast, coffee... the Full Monty". She did not bat an eyelid.

Editors meeting to discuss curbs on the paparazzi may find tensions rising, reports Carol Midgley

but some fear the recent public squabbling between senior figures in the industry may give the impression that it is unfit to do so.

A member of the committee said yesterday he hoped that the row between Mr Moore and Sir David would not affect its deliberations. "A lot of what has been exchanged is nothing to do with the meeting," he said. "It is more about commercial pressures and personal animosities between *The Daily Telegraph* and the *Daily Mail*."

Letters page 19

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
AND JOHN O'LEARY

JET NOISE 'HARMS READING SKILLS

Although most parents who challenge a school's refusal to admit their children are unsuccessful, there has been a steady increase in the number who have exercised their right to appeal. A report by the Audit Commission last December found that the number of appeals had risen by 58 per cent in three years at primary level. There had been a 35 per cent increase over the same period in secondary schools.

and at the apparent inability of many local education authorities to deal with them properly, that it has asked the Education Secretary, David Blunkett, to review the procedures for appealing against school admission decisions.

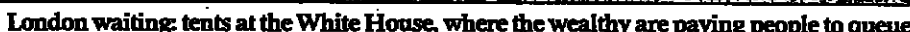
The ombudsmen are calling for the system for handling complaints to be simplified

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

work-based education to 14-year-olds. Others include a scheme in Leeds that reduced the number of school expulsions by a third by allowing children at risk of exclusion to spend part of the week in a pupil referral unit.

Mr Blunkett said: "I hope that together we can reconnect young people to school, to learning and to future success."

Among the 35 local projects chosen to launch the initiative will be a programme pioneered in Stoke-on-Trent offering



Policy and Practice

The flats have spectacular views of the Thames. David Jackson, who works for a demolition firm, is at the head of the queue. He said: "My boss can't queue himself because he is away in France on business. He's in his late fifties. He's paying me a month's salary to stay here for a week — about £900. I have nine children and my tenth is on the way, so I need all the money I can get."

Mr Jackson, 34, of Romford, East London has been queuing since Friday and is sharing his tent with the woman in second place: "Until Monday, we were in sleeping bags. People must have thought we were homeless because I would wake up with pound coins all over me. We decided to go halves on a tent." Prices range from £115,000 for a one-bedroom flat to more than £1 million for a penthouse.

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• *Journal of Management Education* 32(10):1039-1050

Is it horror or is it art? That's purely academic

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

REAL art can never be immoral. With this defence, the Royal Academy of Arts was unrepentant yesterday about its decision to exhibit a portrait of the Moors murderer Myra Hindley in a controversial show that also includes dismembered limbs and rotting animal carcasses.

Teenage visitors will be invited to consider works such as Marc Quinn's *Self* — a head filled with nine pints of his own blood — with questions such as "Do you think a blood sculpture is more powerful than one of bronze?" The angry mother of a child abducted by Hindley has been invited to see the show for herself.

Senior officials of academy met yesterday in a room filled with Old Masters for a press conference on the show *Sensation*. The exhibition's secretary, Norman Rosenthal, was asked whether there was any line of morality or taste that they would draw in choosing exhibits. He said: "There is no such thing as real art that is immoral."

On the Hindley portrait, made by Marcus Harvey with children's palmprints, Mr Rosenthal said: "We were so moved by the painting and impressed by its power that we decided it was worth fighting for. To take this painting out of the exhibition would have diminished the mood of the exhibition. That made us pretty determined that it should stay. To take it out would have been an indecent and terrible thing to do." Child abuse was "one of the great issues of the day," he added.

Winnie Johnson, from Manchester, whose son, Keith, vanished 33 years ago, says that she has been made ill by the *Sensation* show, loaned by the collector Charles Saatchi and opening to the public tomorrow. She says: "I don't want any member of the public to go near it. If they do, they are as sick as Hindley." However, David Gordon, the academy's secretary, blamed the media for stirring up the issue, and insisted that was far more distressing than hanging a painting.

The academy had invited Mrs Johnson and her solicitor to see the show "at a time of their choosing and at our expense". The offer had been



Hindley portrait: "worth fighting for"

turned down. Mr Gordon said that he expected the furore over the Hindley painting to be eclipsed by other works once the public was allowed in.

Tom Phillips, an academician and chairman of exhibitions committee, described it as "a very fine picture. If anything, it is a reinvigoration of the fear we feel." Norman Ackroyd, another academician, said that the painting could be viewed as a warning to others, preventing "something like that happening again".

Other works in the exhibition include one by Damien Hirst, in which thousands of flies are feeding off a rotting cow's head in a pool of blood within a glass case; Dinos and Jake Chapman's life-size mutilated nudes suspended from a tree; James Reilly's image of a boy with amputated arms; and Marc Quinn's head.

The academy has taken the unprecedented step of issuing a questionnaire to the public, for a debate to be conducted in

Academy has sold itself down the line. Your usefulness as president has passed and you should resign honourably, impaling yourself on your sword, whilst calling for the head of Rosenthal."

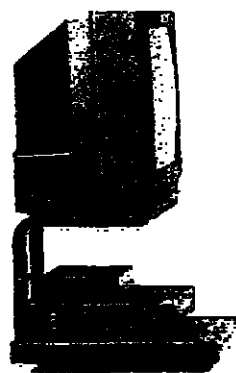
The academician Ken Howard argued yesterday that the Hindley portrait was not a work of art, but of common humanity. "I'm thinking of the parents of the victims. Whether this is a good or bad picture is always going to be a matter of opinion. But in this case, some of us feel the content was fairly objectionable."

The academician John Ward said that the portrait "is not a work of art at all. It's incredibly boring, cashing in on an inflated bit of tragedy. All one feels is that you think of the parents of those children. The whole inflaming of that horror seems to me so uncivilised."



Inverse Reverse Perverse, by Cerith Wyn Evans. A questionnaire will ask: "Should the academy present art even if it shocks and offends?"

Would you like the film or show when it suits you?



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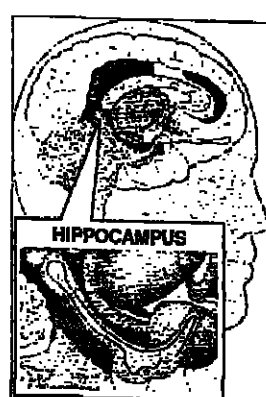
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Where a cabbie keeps his A to Z

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE London taxi driver's mental maps are located in the right hippocampus of the brain, a study at the Institute of Neurology in London has shown.

Eleanor Maguire hailed 11 black-cab drivers and persuaded them to have their brains examined using positron emission tomography (PET) scans while they remembered routes.

The PET scans pinpoint the parts of the brain used in any mental activity by measuring brain blood-flow changes. The results, published in the *Journal of Neuroscience*, show that the right hippocampus was used to recall complex routes — but when the drivers were asked to remember the plots of famous films, they used the left frontal lobe.

When asked to remember information about landmarks in London or in other cities, such as the Statue of Liberty in New York, four different parts of the brain were triggered.

But the right hippocampus was activated only when the drivers were asked to remember a route between two places. "The results show that the right hippocampus is not activated in all types of memory recall, but is specifically recruited for route recall," Dr Maguire says.

Motorists to be tested for drugs in roadside trial

By Stewart Tindler, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

PLANS for roadside drug tests for motorists are being studied by the Department of Transport and senior police. Trial testing could start within nine months and full-scale testing is regarded as inevitable, one police expert said yesterday.

The experimental tests will be carried out by selected police forces around the country. They will evaluate simple roadside tests for cannabis, cocaine, amphetamines and opiates, such as heroin. The tests will be given to drivers who have been stopped and given alcohol breath tests. If the drivers are negative they will be asked to volunteer for the drug-test trials.

The drivers cannot be prosecuted unless police can show that their driving had been impaired by the drugs. Current legislation does not allow prosecution for traces of a banned drug within the body.

In the tests police would use a wipe system developed in Germany by a company called Securitec. A small impregnated pad is passed over the subject's forehead or the back of the neck. The sweat gathered on the wipe reacts to chemicals and shows a colour change indicating a drug is present. Different wipes have to be used for different types of drug.

The wipes are also being tested by police in Stuttgart, but the number of volunteers

has been limited because the German police have insisted on charging a number of the drivers. In Britain, Home Office scientists are working to develop tests and are expected to report next year.

The pilot scheme in Britain is being recommended by a police working party on drug use by motorists. Yesterday Superintendent David Rowe, chairman of the working group, said proposals for the tests had gone to transport ministers and officials, who were considering the plans.

Speaking at the annual conference of the Police Superintendents' Association, in Bristol, Mr Rowe, a Sussex officer, said he believed that full-scale testing was inevitable. His group has formulated a specimen offence for new legislation allowing police to prosecute and they are recommending that there be a zero limit. They believe that if any trace of drugs is permitted that could open the way for some legal use.

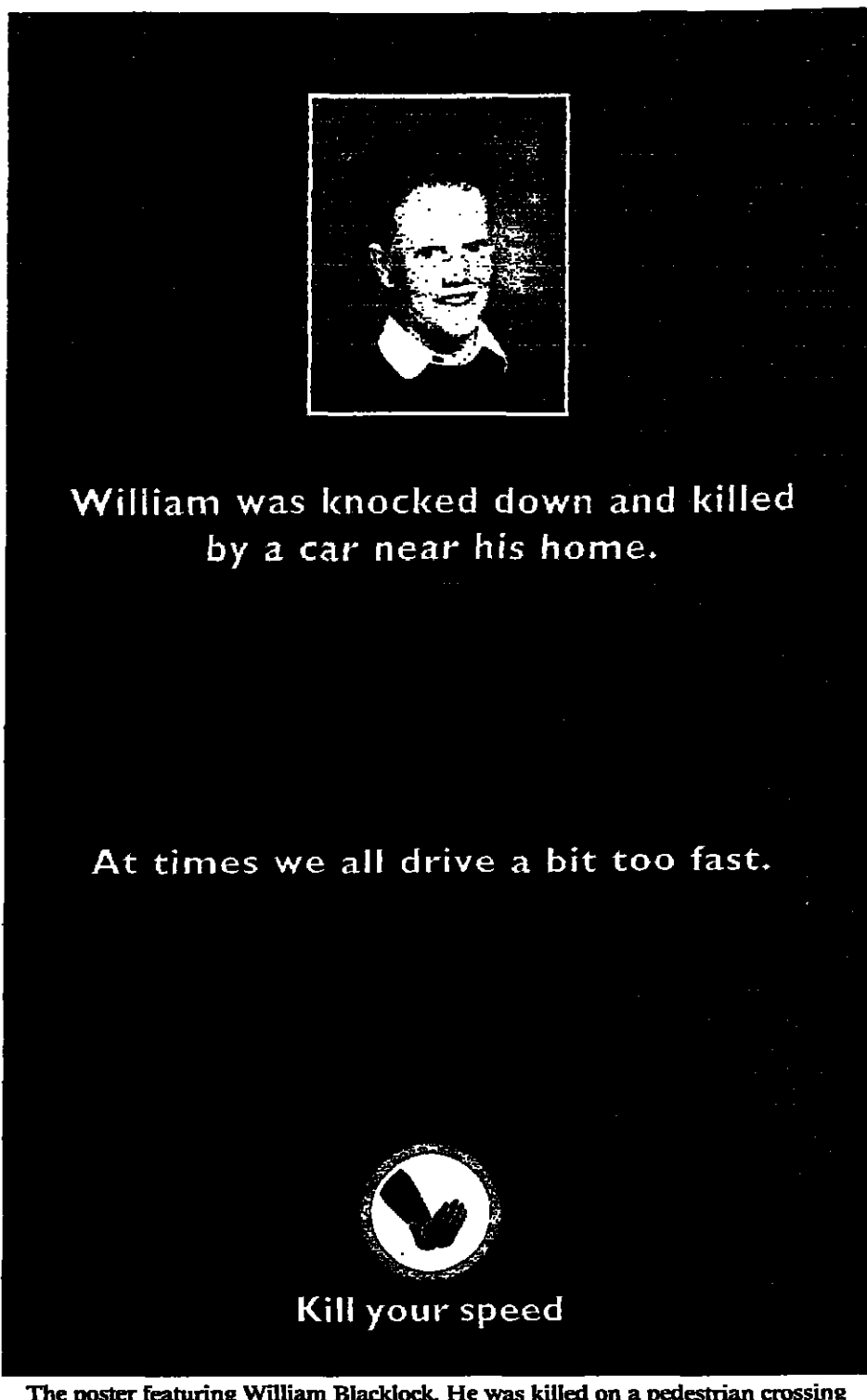
Mr Rowe and Rob Tunbridge are leading a national three-year study of road fatalities to discover the extent of drug use. Yesterday they told the conference that, after 11 months, research showed that the presence of alcohol in the bodies of road victims had fallen substantially in the past decade while illicit drug-taking had increased fourfold.

Mr Rowe said that up to 88,000 drivers who tested negative for drink last year may have taken drugs. Last year there were 780,000 breath tests of which 101,000 (13 per cent) were either positive or the driver refused to take the test.

Mr Rowe argued that, if 13 per cent of those who were cleared by the breath tests were on drugs, that would add up to another 88,000 motorists whose driving might have been impaired. Last year the Forensic Science Service dealt with only 1,204 samples from drivers involving drug use.

The research project has examined 465 victims of fatal road accidents with the help of pathologists and coroners. In 351 cases no drug was found but drugs were present in the bodies of 114 victims, a quarter of the total. Of these 5 per cent had taken prescribed drugs and 20 per cent had taken illegal drugs. A breakdown showed 54 out of 215 drivers had taken drugs; 19 out of 77 motorcycle riders; 25 out of 79 passengers; ten out of 60 pedestrians; two out of 16 cyclists and four of a further 18 unclassified cases.

The research found that 43 of those killed had taken cannabis and a further ten had used amphetamines, including Ecstasy. No one had taken LSD or cocaine, but 14 had taken opiates. A further 31 had taken a mixture of drugs.



William was knocked down and killed by a car near his home.

At times we all drive a bit too fast.

Kill your speed

The poster featuring William Blacklock. He was killed on a pedestrian crossing

Death poster aims to slow speeding drivers

POSTERS featuring a teenager killed by a speeding motorist were unveiled yesterday to spearhead a £3.5 million campaign urging drivers to cut road deaths by going more slowly. They carry a picture of William Blacklock, who was knocked down on a pedestrian crossing near his home, and the slogan "Kill Your Speed".

The campaign will also involve television advertisements showing home movies of the boy and three other

youngsters killed by speeding drivers. The children are seen playing and the poignant films are accompanied by a voice-over of the advice given to police officers on how to break news of a death to the bereaved family.

The seven-week campaign is intended to cut the 1,200 deaths a year linked to speeding — a third of all road fatalities — as well as the thousands of injuries it causes. Ministers called on local authorities to introduce 20mph

■ A third of all road deaths are linked to speeding. The latest campaign to slow us down uses home movies of some of the young victims, writes Arthur Leathley

zones in areas where pedestrians, especially children, are most vulnerable.

Already 300 schemes have been set up and the Government is monitoring results before pressing authorities to

follow the best examples. Ministers and senior police officers behind the new campaign said yesterday that tougher penalties could be introduced if motorists failed to take action to reduce speed. Baroness Hayman, the Road Safety Minister who launched the campaign, said that ministers were "considering urgently" police calls to be allowed to charge an additional administrative levy to help to fund speed cameras.

Research into speed cameras in London suggests that they can reduce the number of deaths by one third. But police complain that they cannot afford the £30,000 installation and £8,000 annual running costs, and admit that many

cameras do not contain film because of lack of money.

Lady Hayman, who revealed that the Government had consulted Buckingham Palace and the Spencer family over the death in a high-speed crash of Diana, Princess of Wales before launching the campaign, said that everyone who drove could help to reduce death and injury. "People want to blame other people about speed while continuing to assert that they are safe drivers themselves," she said.

Road safety campaigners called on ministers to make better enforcement of existing laws a priority and called for a tightening up of wording on charges of dangerous driving, claiming that prosecutions are often dropped because police are unable to provide evidence that a motorist had driven "far below acceptable standards", the definition of the offence.

David Blacklock, the father of the teenager featured in the campaign, backed the cam-

paigners call and demanded tougher sentences. Mr Blacklock, of Olney, Buckinghamshire, said that the sentence passed on the motorist was "derisory".

The 19-year-old driver had been uninsured and admitted driving at more than 40mph in a 30mph zone. He was fined £200 for having no insurance, £150 for careless driving and had his licence endorsed with seven points.

The minister said that collaboration with the United States would be invaluable in the sharing and developing of public health initiatives.

Britain joins US to tackle illness in minorities

By Ian Murray
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN and the United States have agreed to work together to improve the health of their minority communities.

After signing the first international agreement of its kind yesterday, the two countries will share information and ideas about how to tackle the inequalities that cause higher levels of illness among their minority populations. Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, said: "This marks the beginning of a long-term partnership... and is the first step in putting ethnic minority health on an international platform."

Racial discrimination and harassment and work had to be confronted to secure equal access to career opportunities for ethnic minority employees, who made up a large part of the NHS workforce. Mr Dobson said he wanted to see progress in breaking down the barriers that existed in recruiting and developing staff from ethnic minority communities so that they were properly represented at senior levels. He was speaking at the start of a three-day conference on the issue.

Tessa Jowell, the Health Minister, said poverty, unemployment, bad housing, pollution and social isolation hit ethnic minorities hard, especially in the inner cities.

Statistics showed that death rates from heart disease among those aged under 65 and born on the Indian sub-continent were more than 50 per cent higher than the average for England and Wales; death rates from stroke among those aged under 65 were nearly twice as great among those born in the Caribbean than the average; perinatal mortality rates among Pakistani-born mothers were nearly twice the British average; incidence of schizophrenia may be three to six times higher among Afro-Caribbean groups.

The minister said that collaboration with the United States would be invaluable in the sharing and developing of public health initiatives.

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Cathedral that would not cast the first stone

By Ruth Gledhill

THE oaths spoken by a cathedral stonemason were not to be found in any prayer book. George Cooper swore while he worked and his language was loud enough to be heard by visitors hoping for a more religious experience, an industrial tribunal was told.

He was recommended for the sack by his boss, Brian Eacock, head of works at Worcester Cathedral. When the authorities took a more forgiving stance, Mr Eacock resigned, saying that his authority had been undermined. Yesterday Mr Eacock, 57, claimed constructive dismissal at a Birmingham tribunal. He had worked for the cathedral since 1967, but was "devastated" to be overruled on the dismissal. He said: "I couldn't accept that. I could not be happy unless he was fired."

Mr Cooper, who had been given one verbal warning and two written warnings, was said to be a bad timekeeper with a poor standard of work. Mr Eacock was also concerned about other aspects at the cathedral, including a failure to appoint a new health and safety officer.

Canon David Thomas, the acting dean at the time, said there had been no case for dismissal, but the cathedral had been trying to address Mr Eacock's concerns. Mr Cooper was eventually sacked this year after he was caught removing materials and stone but, by then, Mr Eacock had resigned.

The tribunal reserved its decision.

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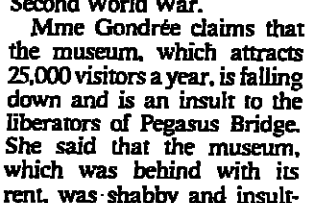
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Pegasus Bridge conflict claims a fresh casualty

Her way was blocked, however, by the museum's well-built curator, Marc Jacquinot, and Alain Nivault, the Mayor. In the ensuing fracas—the



Mr Chamberlain, a stretcher-bearer who was aboard the



Why the fighting still rages

In 1993, councillors refused the café a licence for safety reasons. It reopened in time for the 50th anniversary of D-Day in 1994, but ran into further trouble when Major Howard was thrown out for filming with a German television crew without Mme Gondrée's per-

Some British veterans want to bring it to Britain, while others, including Major Howard, favour a proposal to re-erect it over the River Orne as the centrepiece of a memorial park. Many locals, including Mme Gondrée, oppose a memorial park as it would bring too many tourists to the area.

"I want it retained, and all the survivors from D-Day think the same," he said. "This arrogant woman, who used to call me Uncle John, is betraying and destroying the hard work her parents did. She wants to expand her business and make more money from veterans and tourists." Thérèse Goudrée signed the museum's lease in 1972.

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Mandelson should stick to strategy, not intrigue



Mandelson: has become indispensable to Blair

By PETER RIDDELL

PETER MANDELSON is a much misunderstood politician. He is often depicted as a cross between Rasputin and Machiavelli, obsessed with the next day's headlines. There is that side to him, or rather was, since he is now much less concerned with day-to-day media management. But his far more important contribution has been strategic, in the creation and development of "new" Labour. That is why he has become so indispensable to Tony Blair.

The misunderstanding is partly Mr Mandelson's own fault, since he encourages his image as an *éminence grise*, the man of mys-

tery and power in the salons of the fashionable. That side surfaced during August when he was the public face of the Government and became involved in undignified spats with the BBC.

But while in no way a policy wonk in the sense that Gordon Brown is, Mr Mandelson also has a serious side. That has appeared twice in the past week. First — and unpublished — he travelled to Germany and met senior politicians and businessmen who were eager to hear his views. He would have surprised those who regard him as merely a "spin doctor" by the depth of his account of the Government's position.

The Chancellor and the Foreign

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Secretary need not worry. Mr Mandelson stuck strictly to the official line and offered reassurance that Britain would not seek to obstruct the start of monetary union in 1999.

Second, Mr Mandelson delivered a thoughtful speech yesterday on "co-ordinating government policy". Mr Blair and his advisers had been worried about the absence of such central co-ordination, particularly on issues crossing departmental boundaries. The changes have involved closer co-ordination between the Downing Street Policy Unit and the Cabinet Office, the

Minister's trusted strategic and tactical adviser, always at the end of a phone. While he deserves much of the credit for the rise of Mr Blair and for creating Blairism, it is quite wrong to see a one-way manipulative relationship.

Mr Blair uses Mr Mandelson, as well as relying on him. That was shown after May 1 when Mr Mandelson sought to break free. But he was blocked by Mr Blair, as Derek Draper, a former Mandelson adviser, points out in his new *Blair's 100 Days*, a lively and well-informed account, though marred occasionally by a cheerleading partisan tone.

He writes: "While Mandelson publicly hinted that he would like

to become Minister for Europe or be awarded some other heavy-weight post, Blair insisted on him remaining close by his side." The word was that "Peter is to carry on being Peter".

That is fine in the short-term, but only as long as the relationship with the Prime Minister is maintained. Mr Mandelson has never been popular with Labour MPs. He is trying to build up his own base by seeking election to the party's National Executive Committee, and is a strong contender to enter the Cabinet in an early reshuffle. His long-term future will depend on which side of his character — the salon manipulator or the cool strategist — is dominant.

'Yes' vote will revive Wales, says Hain

By VALERIE ELLIOTT

WALES would lose thousands of jobs if voters rejected an assembly in tomorrow's referendum, a minister claimed last night.

Peter Hain, a Welsh Office Minister, hailed the advantages that an assembly would bring for inward investors but said foreign companies would lose interest in Wales if people did not have the confidence to support devolution.

The business case for a Welsh assembly became a central issue yesterday as both sides tried to attract the large number of "don't knows". An HTV poll showed the figure had climbed to 34 per cent from 27 per cent last week.

The Labour Party will keep up the momentum today with a visit from John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, to Swansea while Harriet Harman, the Social Security Minister, is expected in Cardiff. For the Tories, William Hague will tour Wales attempting to maximise the "no" vote.

Last night Michael Ancram, the Tory constitutional spokesman, claimed an assembly would lose jobs. At a "just say

no" rally in Llandrindod Wells he said: "Watch business in the South East and South West of England quietly celebrate if Wales votes 'yes'. All this would be meat and drink to England who would suddenly see the opportunities to compete with Wales for inward investment."

However Mr Hain said that foreign companies canvassed by the Welsh Office believed an assembly would provide a platform for exports to the Continent. Mr Hain said: "It is a highly competitive market and they want the support an assembly would give." For the first time Wales would have "a voice straight into Europe's decision-makers".

Although confidential talks are still going on with the Welsh Office, it has emerged that the Taiwanese computer company Acer is discussing opening a Welsh plant with 1,000 jobs. But the company has made clear that the open-door via Brussels to Europe might be the clinching factor.

Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, has pledged that the assembly would open an office



Tony Blair campaigning in Wrexham yesterday for a "yes" vote; both sides are fighting hard to win over the 34 per cent of voters who are undecided

in Brussels and that key members would be called ministers and would take part in Council of Ministers meetings. He also believes the potential for Wales will grow as European countries devote to regional government.

Mr Hain was yesterday visiting the 250-acre LG plant in Newport, which will bring 6,000 jobs and is the largest single investment project in Europe. The plant was secured just before the last election by Mr Hague, then Welsh Secretary, after beating off a strong challenge from the

Scots, but it is understood to be costing the taxpayer about £25,000 for each of the 6,100 jobs on site. The Welsh Office reckoning, however, is that the knock-on effect on supply companies and service industry will create another 15,000 jobs.

Mr Hain accepted that Wales would still need funds to assist companies setting up there. Money would become available as the quango state was dismantled.

Simon Jenkins, page 18
Leading article, page 19

Pull together, Whitehall told

By JILL SHERMAN

PETER MANDELSON yesterday defended the increasing centralisation of the Government as he warned individual Whitehall departments to pull together.

But he claimed that the aim was to encourage the collective working of Cabinet government, not to impose "some quasi-presidential approach". The Minister with-

out Portfolio argued that departments should not be "bogged down in bureaucratic turf wars" as he gave a sign that Labour intended further reforms of government machinery, including the Cabinet committees.

Speaking at a London conference held by the University of Birmingham, Mr Mandelson criticised previous governments for failing to have a proper structure to support

the Prime Minister in co-ordinating strategy. He complained that in the past Whitehall departments had not been effective in co-ordinating cross-departmental policy, resulting in ineffectual government.

"For this reason a strong centre of government, harnessing the strength of No 10 and Cabinet Office, has been created to bolster and sharpen up that process," he said.

Tory MEPs pick leader who is likely to clash with Hague

FROM CHARLES BREMMER IN BRUSSELS

AFTER weeks of campaigning, the small band of Conservative MEPs yesterday picked Edward McMillan-Scott, a moderate pro-European, as their new leader.

Mr McMillan-Scott, MEP for North Yorkshire and one of the most visible Britons in the European Parliament, succeeds Tom Spencer, MEP for Surrey, whose pro-European views landed him in trouble with the home party and led to fighting within the 18-member Tory group.

Conservatives view many of their

Strasbourg brethren as hopeless cases. Despite Mr McMillan-Scott's general loyalty to the party line, tensions with William Hague's team are likely to continue. Although no federalist, Mr McMillan-Scott, 48, wants Conservatives to change their attitude towards Europe. "What we need to be is serious about the single currency," he said last night. "It does look as if it is going to go ahead and a standpoint which takes account of the pitfalls as well as any potential benefits is more realistic."

"I want to build bridges between Europe and the Conservative Party because ... economic realism is

breaking out all over. In Douglas Hurd's words, 'things are going our way'." He dismissed claims that the Tories were a spent force in Europe and lacked credibility among their counterparts in the Commons.

Mr McMillan-Scott will lead the group to Downing Street next week for their first meeting with Mr Hague. "We are a small team in an increasingly important institution," he said. "We belong to a party which has held power longer than any in history. Its basic beliefs in freedom and choice within the rule of law have shaped Eastern Europe and the EU's single market. We are on the threshold of new developments

in Europe which affect every Briton and we are ready for these challenges."

He said the job now was to prepare the party for the 1999 European elections, which he saw as Mr Hague's first national electoral test.

The Tory group, which was reduced to a rump in the 1994 elections when Labour won 62 seats, picked Mr McMillan-Scott by nine votes in a third-round run-off against Edward Kellett-Bowman, MEP for Titchen, Test and Avon. Caroline Jackson, MEP for Wiltshire North and Bath, was third. The Euro-Conservatives are allied in the Strasbourg assembly with the

European People's Party, the mainly Christian Democrat group dominated by the Germans.

A former political consultant and MEP since 1984, the suave Mr McMillan-Scott is Conservative spokesman on foreign affairs and defence. But he made his name campaigning against fraud and waste by EU institutions.

His main achievement has been a long campaign that forced the Commission to start proceedings for fraud against officials in its tourism division. He is also the author of a series of fact cards that boil down complicated EU issues to a series of easy-to-digest nuggets.



McMillan-Scott: campaigner

Reformers urge new law for gay partners

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

COHABITING partners including homosexual couples should be able to claim damages if one of them is killed in an accident, the Law Commission — the Government's law reform body — says today.

Under the present law only a limited range of relatives can claim for bereavement damages when someone is killed in an accident and also damages for financial loss suffered.

Two kinds of damages are payable: bereavement damages under the Fatal Accidents Act 1976 which are for grief and distress; and damages awarded by courts for financial loss. But both are restricted to certain relatives.

Today the Law Commission says in a consultation paper that it is time to scrap the list of who can claim and open up damages to other people who suffer as a result of a fatal accident. It also says that bereavement damages should be increased from £7,500 to £10,000 and index-linked.

At present, the dead person's "partner" does not qualify for bereavement damages, nor do his or her children, nor brothers or sisters. If the victim was aged over 18, no one can recover damages as a result of his or her death.

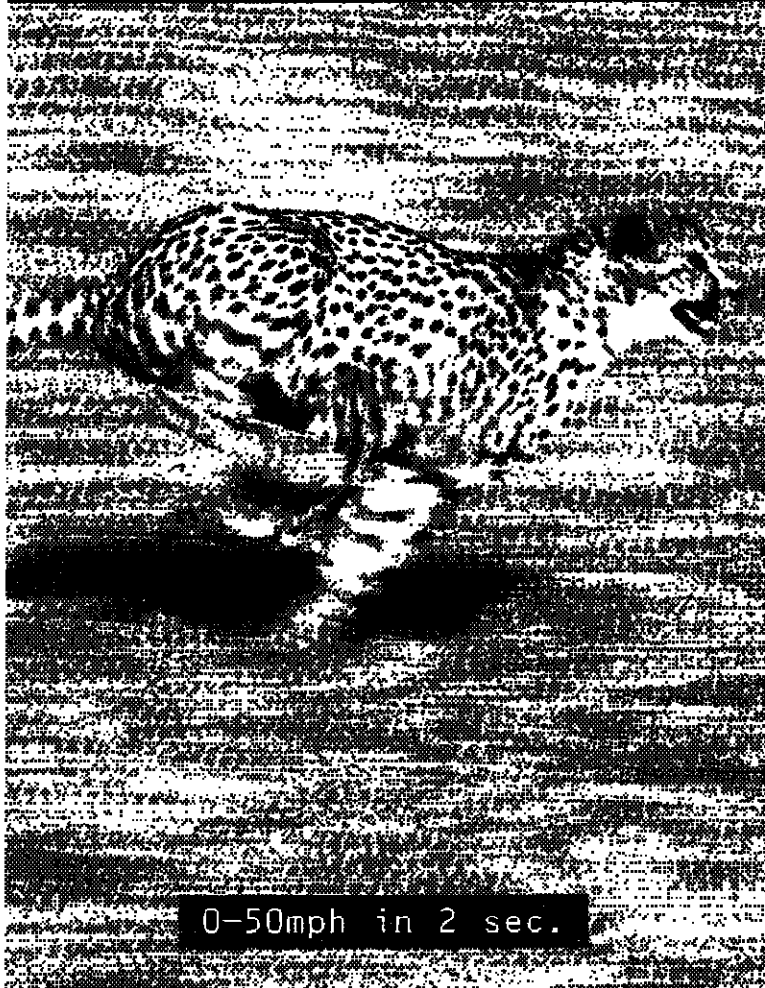
The commission recommends that the list be extended to include children, siblings, and possibly cohabiting partners. As for damages payable for financial loss, these are limited to a statutory list which excludes cohabitants who have not lived together for at least two years, same-sex partners, children who were not the deceased's but were treated by him or her as part of the family, other children the deceased helped to support, or distant relatives supported by the deceased.

The commission suggests that instead of a list, any individual should have a right of recovery who was or would have been dependent on the deceased, totally or in part.

In a second paper the commission looks at the other side of the coin, the possible "over-compensation" of widows who receive damages on the death of a spouse when it may be known that they are to remarry.

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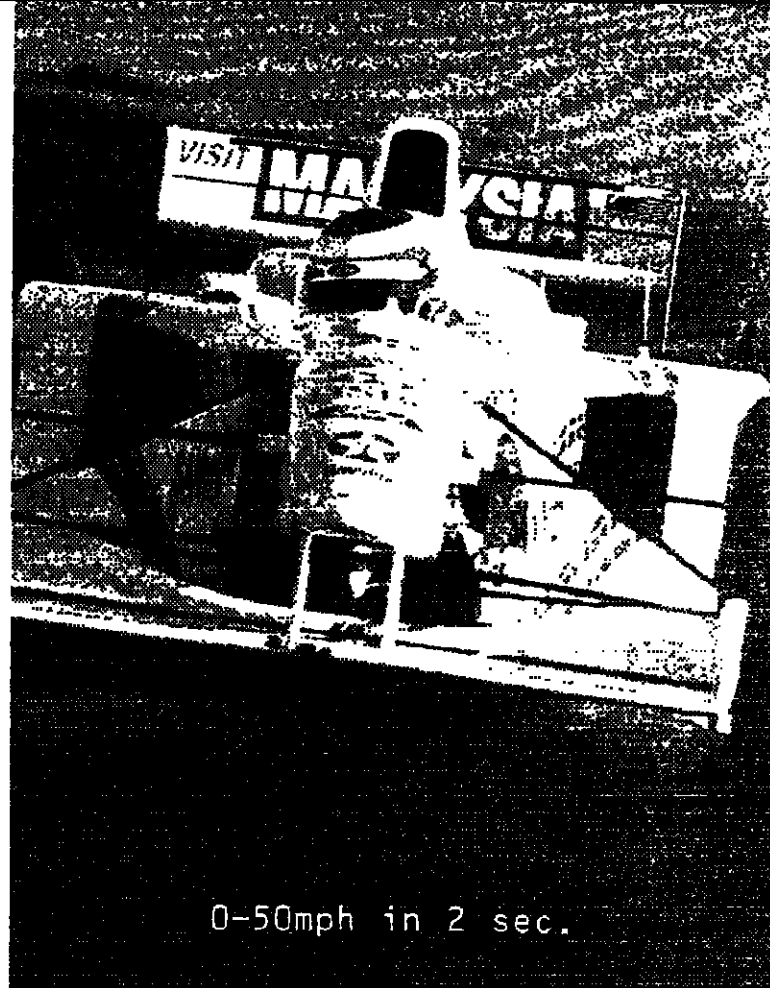
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Children to be given lessons in handling stress

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN as young as five are to be given lessons in "psychological healthcare" to help them to cope with the stresses of modern life, from bullying to divorce and poverty.

The project, backed by the Samaritans and endorsed by the World Health Organisation, has been prompted by concern that too much attention is paid to children's physical needs at the expense of helping them to develop emotionally.

Vanda Scott, director of Befrienders International, which represents the Samaritans worldwide, said that, just as children are taught to wash their hands before eating and to brush their teeth, they need to be taught the rudiments of psychological healthcare if they are to become emotionally strong adults.

"Society today is increasingly difficult for young people. Grief and tragedy are flashed on our screens from all over the world. Traditional support systems are breaking down. Children suffer from divorce, bullying, violence, from having parents who are unemployed or by having parents who both work," she said.

"Children need to be equipped with the skills and knowledge that will give them resilience to everyday adversities. This will stand them in good stead through the high-risk teenage years into adult and parenthood."

Befrienders International is

devising an education pack for five to eight-year-olds for use by parents, teachers, community workers and childcare professionals. It will be tried out with volunteer groups in Denmark before being tested in other countries.

The project, called *Reaching Young Europe*, is sponsored by the pharmaceutical company SmithKline Beecham. One scheme under consideration for the education pack is a game developed by child psychologists in Canada. A Santa Claus figure visits a group of children with a load of parcels, each one representing a different problem, such as bullying or scolding. The children sit around the parcels and discuss how they might react to each one, what might be the best way of dealing with it and what to say to friends who encounter it. The discussion may include role-play.

"Teaching may also take place through simplistic forms, such as cartoon figures in a book acting out a story," Ms Scott said.

She added that one long-term aim of the project was to reduce suicides among adolescents by teaching how to cope with stress early on. Although there were only three recorded suicides among five to 14-year-olds in Britain in 1996 and five the previous year, it is feared that the real figure may be much higher because coroners are reluctant to identify a child's death as suicide.

Befrienders International

believes there are at least 19,000 cases of attempted suicide among those aged ten to 19 each year in England and Wales. The suicide rate for young men is now 40 per cent higher than in the early 1980s.

While the *Reaching Young Europe* education pack will not actively raise the subject of suicide with the children, Professor Brian Misra, a psychologist at the University of Quebec, who is taking part in the project, believes that it is an issue that most children are aware of and needs to be addressed by educators at an early age.

He said: "Children develop their knowledge based upon discussion with other children and media depictions of suicide as an heroic act. It therefore seems appropriate to develop methods for teaching children about suicide at an early age."



George Freud, 2, and Oscar Nemon's statue of Sigmund, his great-great-grandfather, after it was moved yesterday to the Tavistock Centre in Hampstead, northwest London. The statue, cast in 1970, had for years been largely unseen behind Swiss Cottage Library

Parents should state facts and show they care



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

PARENTS dread breaking bad news to their children almost as much as they fear explaining sex to them.

Dr Bernard Valman, a consultant paediatrician who wrote a recent British Medical Association book on children, said: "Adults worry in case they make a hash of imparting serious news to children and make an awful situation worse. In fact, what often happens is that the children have already anticipated the bad news and will frequently do their best to help their parents."

Most of the conversations are nowhere near as bad as the parent or other adult was expecting. The closer the child is to the adult emotionally, the easier it will be to explain death, divorce or disaster in a way which will upset the child least.

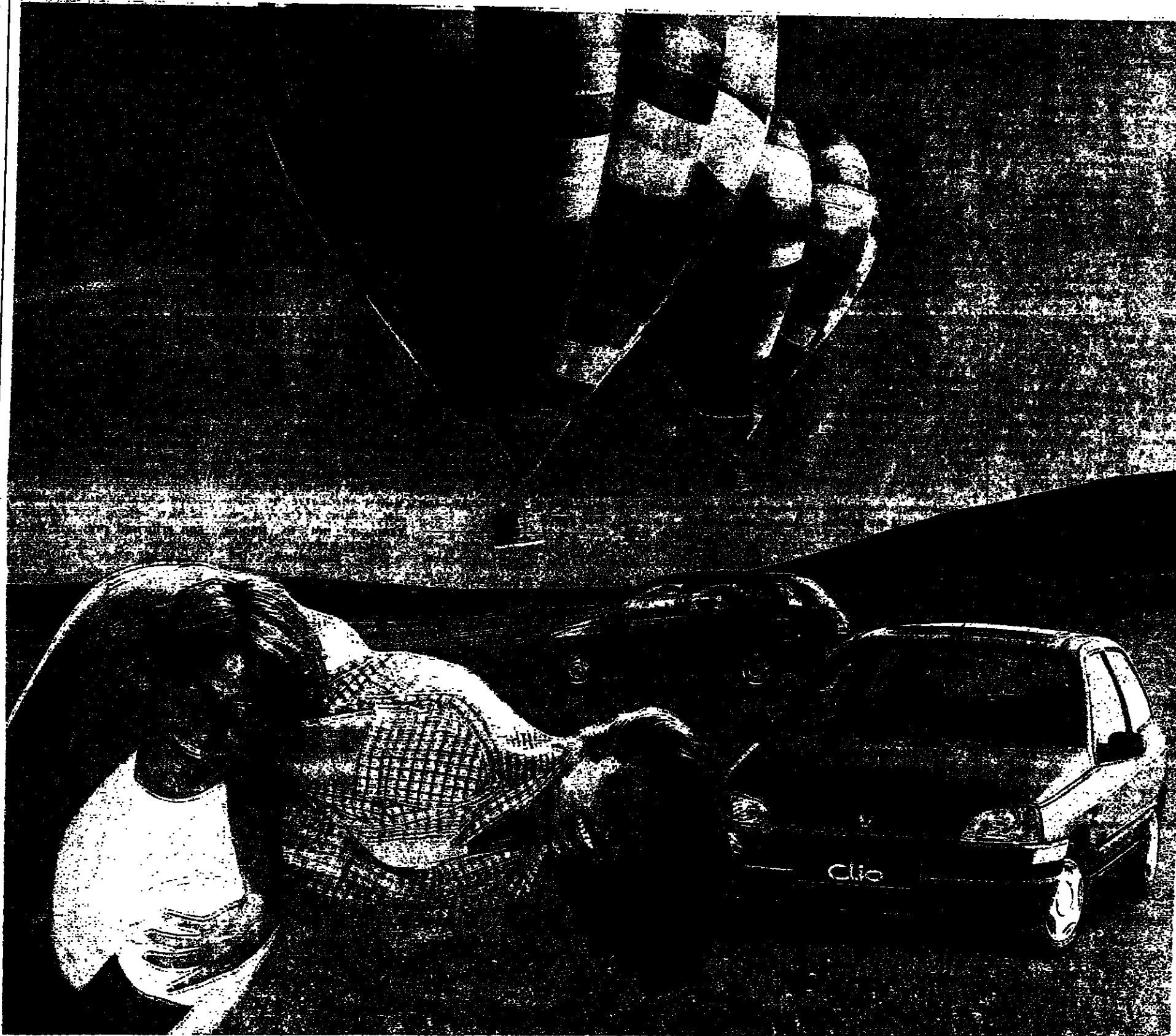
In general, Dr Valman recommends that children should be told the facts "straight". Even at the age of four, children will accept death, or disaster, but they will not understand the permanence of death until they are about eight.

When adults talk to children about family problems, they should also be comforting, and be prepared to answer questions. A word of

warning: children mature at different rates. Some three-year-olds are not only capable of feats of reasoning but they can express emotions as acutely as a six-year-old.

When parents are divorcing children from an early age will want to know where they are going to live, who is going to have responsibility for their care, and how often they are going to meet the other parent. Many fear that their behaviour, or their very presence, may have precipitated the divorce. Dr Valman emphasises the importance of parents saying that, although they may no longer love each other enough to stay together, their love for their children remains unaltered. Both parents, together, should talk to the children.

Even in the 1950s it was assumed that, somewhere between nine and 11, children acquired knowledge of sex from their peer group, and that it was better they discuss it among themselves than learn it from their parents. It is now thought that the subject should be broached well before puberty, at about six, seven or eight, before a child is prey to other children's storytelling, which may be not only irrelevant, but physically impossible.



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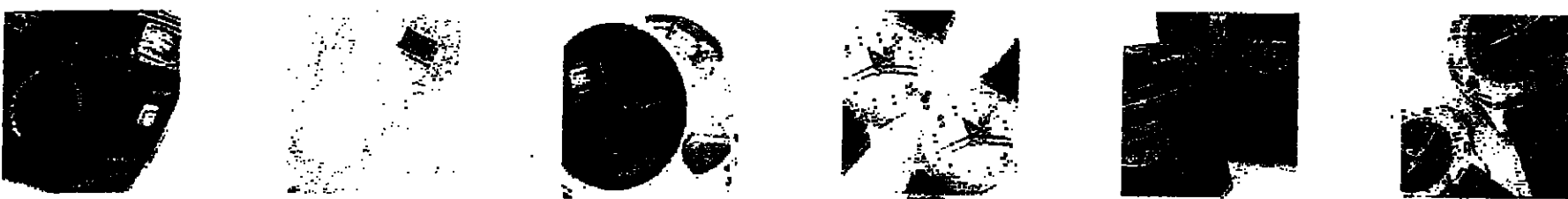
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The manure heap which blocked a right of way across the farm in Suffolk was 30ft wide and up to 10ft tall

Farmer barred public path with dung heap

Ramblers win court victory over landowner who blocked right of way with barbed wire and tons of manure, writes Michael Horsnell

A FARMER who blocked public footpaths with tons of manure was fined £500 and ordered to pay costs of £3,500 yesterday for "blatantly flouting" the rights of walkers.

The case was a victory for the Ramblers' Association, which prosecuted John Gooderham after months of fruitless negotiation to persuade him to clear the rights of way at Red House Farm, Gillingham, near Stowmarket, Suffolk.

Anyone keeping to the footpath and bridleway on his land also had to get through waist-high crops and a 4ft-high barbed-wire fence even if they managed to circumvent the huge dung heap and two electric fences, a court was told.

John Andrews, a footpaths secretary for the association's Suffolk branch, claimed Gooderham reacted with threats and abuse when he pointed out the obstructions, which he discovered while

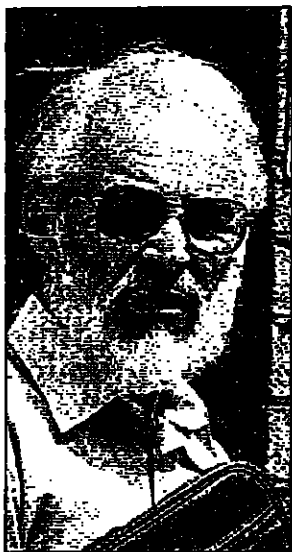
carrying out a Countryside Commission rights-of-way survey.

After mentioning one of the paths in a walking guide for his local newspaper in 1995, he had several complaints from readers allegedly harassed by the farmer while taking the route.

Mr Andrews, 59, a retired geography teacher, wrote to Gooderham to ask him to keep the paths clear and visited him in April last year at his 99-acre farm to make a personal plea.

He told St Edmundsbury magistrates at Bury St Edmunds: "When we first approached Gooderham to discuss the issue, he made it clear he wasn't interested. He suggested that, it being a Sunday, we should bend down on our knees in church and pray for forgiveness for going around the countryside harassing innocent people like him."

Mr Andrews, of Ingham,



Andrews said farmer reacted with threats

near Bury St Edmunds, and fellow Ramblers' Association member John Sayer returned to the farm in July last year and took photographs as evidence.

"The way was completely blocked by a substantial heap of manure, 8ft to 10ft high and about 30ft wide, so we had to force our way through crops to get around it," he said.

Gooderham, who breeds cattle and grows crops,

claimed he could not agree the location of the paths with Suffolk County Council. But magistrates dismissed his claim after hearing that the two rights of way were laid down on a definitive map and farmers were obliged by law to maintain paths on their land.

Gooderham denied two charges of obstructing rights of way and two of failing to indicate their width by keeping them clear. He admitted one charge of obstructing a path with a barbed-wire fence.

Meg Clibborn, chairman of the bench, told him: "You blatantly flouted the law and, despite your small means, you must pay a fine. I strongly advise you to get your farm in order or this kind of case will come to court again."

Gooderham, who claims his farm is running at a loss because of the BSE crisis and a drop in corn prices, said after the case: "This was the first time I have ever been in court."

"I think my punishment was very harsh. I have not seen any ramblers for the last four months. They tend to be a pain in the neck because they leave gates undone so animals get out."

Mr Andrews said: "I don't



John Gooderham on his farm. He claimed that ramblers had left gates undone

take any pleasure in somebody being punished, but this prosecution was a last resort. We had tried absolutely everything else."

John Trevelyan, deputy director of the Ramblers' Association, said that the Gooderham case was among the worst that the organisation had come across. He added that the arable areas of eastern England were the most notorious for suffering

from footpath obstructions caused by farmers.

In 1988 the Countryside Commission found in a survey that only two thirds of paths were in a satisfactory condition.

That had improved by 1994, when a second survey was commissioned, to three quarters. But the commission said that, even though the situation continued to improve, it was pessimistic about reach-

ing its target of all paths being clear by 2000.

The prosecution was only the fifth brought by the association since the 1990 Rights of Way Act made landowners responsible for maintaining paths.

Prosecutions are normally brought by the highway authorities. The case was brought under the 1980 Highways Act, amended by the 1990 Rights of Way Act.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Historic Edinburgh bell rings out again

The Netherbow Bell in Edinburgh was rung for the first time in more than 200 years yesterday. The bronze bell, made in The Netherlands in 1621, originally hung in the Netherbow Port, the city's principal gateway, which was demolished in 1764. It has been rehung in a new frame near by as part of a redevelopment of the Netherbow area costing more than £160,000. Also on the site is the former home of John Knox, the 16th-century Protestant reformer.

2.5m bees stolen

Thieves stole 27 hives with 2.5 million bees and a quantity of honey at Beeley Moor, Derbyshire. Police believe the hives, worth £4,000, may be sold on the black market after a plague destroyed hives in Kent.

Love letters

A wife painted "I am I love you" in 20ft letters in the street after her husband said she did not express her love enough. Karen Fitzpatrick, 32, was ordered to pay £25 compensation for criminal damage at Sudbury, Suffolk.

Hospital crash

An elderly couple suffered serious head and face injuries when their car ploughed into the porch of the physiotherapy department of Orsett Hospital, near Grays, Essex. Fire crews spent 20 minutes cutting them free.

Vintage pies

Trading standards officers found 12-year-old tins of steak pies and an old can of apricots containing decomposed metal flakes on sale at a shop at Midsomer Norton, Somerset. The shopkeeper was fined £300 plus costs.

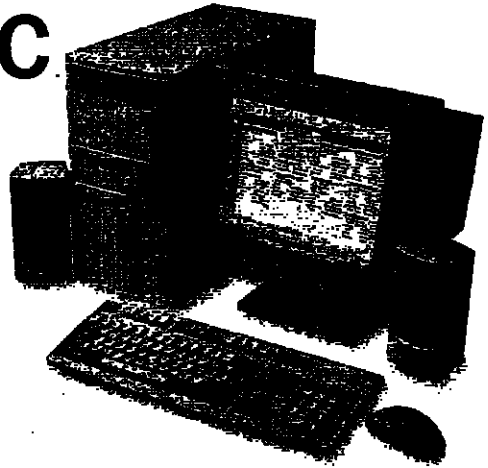
Bill of thanks

A couple have found letters sent by Buffalo Bill in their garden shed in Warrington. Andy and Tina Rogers say they were sent to the local chief constable thanking him for retrieving jewellery stolen from his touring show.

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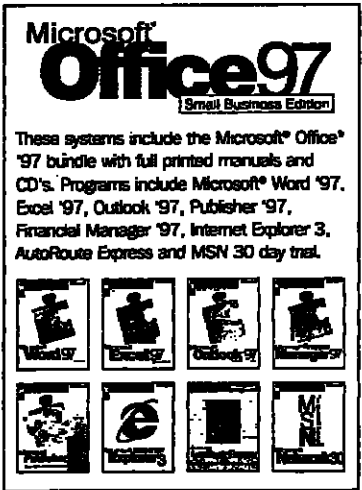
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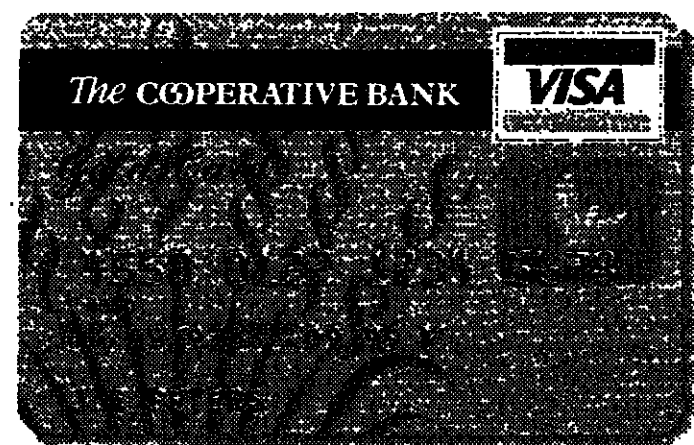
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Blind man 'has key to Tsar's secret library'

AN elderly and blind Moscow pensioner claims to have the key to one of Russia's most enduring historical riddles: the whereabouts of Ivan the Terrible's secret library, hidden beneath the Kremlin for more than four centuries.

At a meeting on Monday in his tiny flat this week with Yuri Luzhkov, Mayor of Moscow, Apolos Ivanov, 87, said that he had visited the maze of tunnels beneath Russia's seat of power and established where the hundreds of unique books and manuscripts must have been hidden. According to Tass, Mr Ivanov asked Mr Luzhkov to help to secure the necessary permission and fund an archaeological team to find the lost library.

The fate of the estimated 800 books and manuscripts has fascinated historians since they were lost during the reign of Ivan IV, known as the Terrible (1530-1584). Although the library carries the name of the most notorious Tsar, he inherited most of the collection, assembled by his grandfather, Ivan the Great.

The library is thought to have contained some of the earliest books written in Russian, but it is made up mostly of Greek, Latin, Hebrew and Egyptian manuscripts transferred to Russia by Sophia Palaeologa, niece of the last Byzantine Emperor, who married Ivan the Great.

Historians know about the existence of the library because Ivan the Terrible instructed scribes to translate the books into Russian, although none of the scholars was allowed access to the en-



Richard Beeston reports on a pensioner who says he has solved the mystery of Ivan the Terrible's missing manuscripts

tire collection. According to legend, the library once filled three halls and was so valued by Ivan the Terrible that he built a vault to protect them from the fires that regularly swept Moscow.

Historians are divided on what happened after Ivan's death. Some believe that the literary treasure was destroyed by fire in 1547, 1571 or 1611. Another possibility is that the manuscripts and books were removed from Moscow and taken to Sergeyev Posad, 50 miles north of the capital, where Ivan moved his court in the latter part of his reign.

Historians, archaeologists, Peter the Great and even the Vatican have searched fruitlessly for the missing library for hundreds of years. One historian, who dedicated his professional life to discovering the treasure, was blocked at every attempt by the Kremlin's huge walls and foundations. After the murder of the Bolshevik leader Sergei Kirov in Leningrad in 1934, which became the pretext for Stalin's purges, the Soviet authorities tightened security at the Kremlin and banned any further searches.

However, last year German Sterligov, a former businessman and amateur historian, said that he was going to resume the hunt using X-ray

equipment. He planned to concentrate his efforts away from the Kremlin because he was convinced that Stalin's secret police had combed every inch of the fortification.

Some unkind critics of Mr Luzhkov have suggested that the latest hunt could simply be a publicity stunt timed to coincide with the 850th anniversary celebrations of Moscow's founding.

Others are convinced that this time the missing collection will be found, not least because Mr Ivanov is blind. According to legend, anyone coming close to solving the mystery of the library loses his sight.



Nikolai Cherkasov as Ivan the Terrible in the first of Sergei Eisenstein's films on the Tsar's life. Ivan inherited most of his collection of books and manuscripts, which is thought to have included some of the earliest books written in Russian, from his grandfather

Ruler's demonic image obscures years of reform

RENEWED interest in the fate of Ivan the Terrible's lost library is likely to reopen the debate about the legacy of Russia's most notorious Tsar, whose accomplishments as a statesman, diplomat and book-lover are frequently overshadowed by his more bloodstained exploits (Richard Beeston writes).

In the imagination of every Russian schoolchild, the image of Ivan IV, who lived from 1530 to 1584, is vividly stamped by Repin's haunting portrait of the crazed ruler clutching the body of his son and heir after he had killed the boy in a mad rage. Not until Stalin's purges four centuries later has anyone been so demonised in Russian history. The judgment, however, tends to overlook the first half of Ivan's reign, which was marked by a period of wise and relatively progressive government. The monarch, who came to the throne at 17, was instantly under threat from his rebellious noblemen but, once he had consolidated his position, he set about strengthening his kingdom.

During the 1550s he reformed the legal and administrative systems, improved relations with the Church and instituted badly needed changes in the military. He expanded his domain by conquering Moscow's ancient rivals on the Volga and, in a bold move for the period, established strong commercial ties with England.

Richard Chancellor, an

English explorer who visited Moscow and signed a trade agreement with Ivan the Terrible, was impressed by the monarch when he described life in the Kremlin court in the mid-1550s in his travel log *Voyages and Documents*. In one passage he is struck by Ivan's ability to address by name each of the 140 guests at a Kremlin banquet and ceremonially hand to every nobleman a piece of bread, a subtle way of maintaining personal control over his court.

"The Russes tolde our men that the reason thereof, as also of the bestowing of bread in that manner, was to the ende that the Emperour might

keepe the knowledge of his owne household; and withal, that such as are under his displeasure, might by this meanes be knownen," Chancellor wrote. The turning point in Ivan's

reign came after the death of his wife, Anastasia Romanova, who he is suspected of murdering. He then became obsessive about state security and founded the feared Oprichniki, the first organised secret police, whose ruthless methods of eliminating real or supposed enemies would be continued later by the Tsar's Okhrana and eventually by the Soviet KGB.

There is strong evidence that by the end of his reign Ivan the Terrible had become mentally unhinged. In 1581, he murdered his son, and three years later he died and was succeeded by his second son, Fyodor.

He founded the feared Oprichniki, the first organised secret police

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Frequent-flyer programme: Miles & More

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Frequent-flyer programme: Aeroplan

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CHANGING TIMES

New Mir scare after near-miss with US satellite

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE crew of the Russian space station Mir, already coping with a series of system failures and breakdowns, prepared for an emergency evacuation from the complex earlier this week during a near-miss in space with an American military satellite, Russian officials said yesterday.

They said the crew scrambled into their Soyuz escape capsule and remained there for 30 minutes while the satellite hurtled by on Monday night, passing within 500 yards of the space station, its closest encounter with any unrelated craft in its 11-year history.

A US military spokesman said the craft that passed near Mir was a ballistic missile defence satellite put into orbit by the Pentagon in 1994. The US Space Command said the Russians had been given 36 hours' notice that the satellite was expected to pass within 1,000 yards of Mir.

"It's not unusual, but it's not an everyday occurrence either," the spokesman said.

Mir is already damaged from a collision with a supply craft during a practice docking in June, which punctured one of its research modules and caused the loss of about half the station's power.

The latest incident will only add weight to the doubts about the continuing viability of Mir, which has been in operation for six years more than was originally intended. Shortly before the near-miss, the crew had just finished fixing the fourth breakdown in their main computer since July. They have also been plagued by other system failures, including the air supply and temperature control, making life on the complex extremely uncomfortable.

The faults in the air supply system have also caused problems by allowing an excessive build-up of carbon dioxide aboard the complex. This can lead to drowsiness and reduced efficiency among the crew, who frequently have to act fast to avert crises.

Sharon Lucid, a Nasa astro-

naut who carried out a Mir mission last year, said last week that the high temperatures, which remained around 36C, as well as the air supply problems, made the crew more prone to make mistakes.

The original collision in June and an incident the following month, when a crew member accidentally unplugged the main computer, had been put down to human error, which some officials have suggested may have been connected with an excessive level of carbon dioxide.

Earlier this month Michael Foale, the British-born Nasa astronaut on Mir, carried out a six-hour space walk with the flight commander, Anatoli Solovyov, to inspect the damage caused by the June collision. They failed to locate the hole in the Spektr module, which has had to be sealed off from the rest of the station since. But an earlier mission to reattach power cables severed after the collision was successful and the station is now running on full power.

The US shuttle Atlantis is due to blast off for Mir next week, bringing supplies and more repair equipment, as well as Dr Foale's replacement, David Wolf.

President Yeltsin has ordered a full investigation into the recent mishaps aboard Mir to be completed by the end of the month. Vasilii Tsubilyev and Aleksandr Lazutkin, the commander and flight engineer on Mir at the time of the collision, may face fines of up to 30 per cent of their pay if they are found to be responsible.



Mir: seemingly no end to the space station's troubles

Italian woman prison boss 'had sex with male inmates'

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE arrest of a woman prison governor on charges of having sex with male inmates was seized on yesterday as proof that conditions in Italian prisons are not merely lax but out of control. "If this was a one-woman crusade to humanise Italy's prisons, perhaps it went a bit too far," *Il Messaggero di Roma* said.

Flavia Pignatelli, 45, prison governor at Imperia on the Ligurian coast for the past five years, was arrested for alleged "obscene acts, acts contrary to public decency, extortion and illegal phone tapping". The police said that an investiga-

tion into her conduct began a year ago after an inmate at Imperia denounced her for having had "non-professional relations" in 1994 with a convicted drug addict from Milan, by whom she allegedly had a child.

Investigators said they had since compiled a list of alleged crimes, including the acceptance of gifts from convicts and their relations "in exchange for her sexual favours". In turn, inmates who had sex with the governor "received better treatment and more privileges, including better food, more telephone calls, more visits and day releases", a police report said. It said a "small band of favourites in

effect ran the prison with her" and she was often seen "kissing inmates through the bars of their cells".

Signora Pignatelli denied the charges yesterday and said that her accusers were "malicious, crazy and out to get me". She said her three-year-old child was by a businessman from San Remo who intended to marry her. Tiziana Maiolo, a Forza Italia MP, said Signora Pignatelli was being victimised because she had tried to "improve prison conditions" and was a woman. But witnesses said they had often seen the governor having sex "in different parts of the prison, including the cells, the kitchen and the laundry".



Henry Szymanski is welcomed after more than 50 years by his two brothers Konrad, left, and Sigmond, right, at Berlin's Tegel airport yesterday. Henry had not been seen since the Nazis

Reunion for Polish brothers parted by Nazis

sent him to a labour camp. As they recognised one another, the three men broke down in tears and

kissed one another. "It's very hard to express the feeling inside," said Henry, 75, of Niles, Illinois. "I look at

both of them and, God almighty, they were kids last time I saw them." The Polish family lost contact during

the Second World War and Henry went to America believing his family were dead. They will be reunited with two more brothers, Nicodem, 80, and Mieczyslaw, 67, in Gdansk next week. (AP)

Britain offers to prepare Warsaw forces for Nato

FROM MICHAEL EVANS IN WARSAW

GEORGE ROBERTSON, the first Cabinet minister to come to Warsaw since Poland was invited to join Nato, yesterday offered the Polish Government a "shadow general" scheme under which senior British officers would teach their Polish counterparts "everything they need to know about the alliance".

The proposal was among several offered by the Defence Secretary to help Poland's armed forces accustom themselves to Nato practices before they become full members in 1999. English-language training will also be expanded.

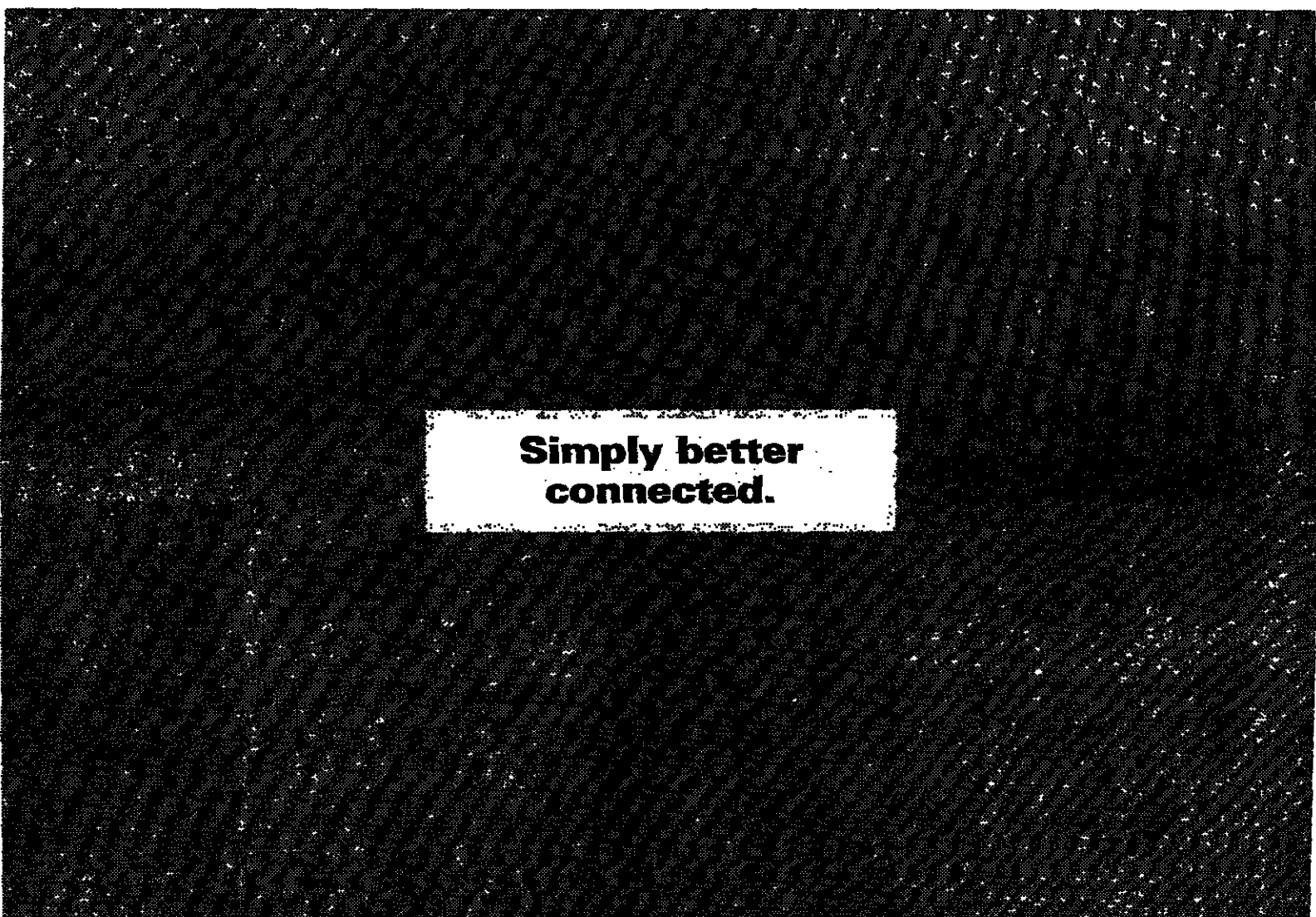
Mr Robertson, in talks with the Polish President and Defence Minister, yesterday received the first insight into how the Poles plan to transform their armed forces over the next 15

years. However, their 15-year strategic defence plan has not been published and Mr Robertson said his talks had to remain confidential.

Senior military sources at the Polish Ministry of National Defence said full membership of Nato would cost the Polish Government \$10 billion (£6.2 billion) over 15 to 20 years. Mr Robertson said, after meeting President Kwasniewski, that the Polish Government felt the costs would be

manageable. Part of the strategic defence plan will be to cut the Polish Army from 220,000 to 180,000 and to improve weapons capabilities. The senior Defence Ministry sources said that the main cost to Poland of joining Nato would be the purchase of about 80 new combat aircraft to replace MiG21s and MiG23s.

The first accession talks between Poland and Nato were completed successfully in Brussels yesterday.



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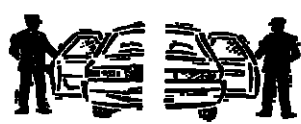
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Japanese woman tipped for UN deputy's job

SADAKO OGATA, the popular head of the UN refugee agency, is being tipped to be invited to become the first Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, in a move that would enhance Japan's influence in the world organisation.

Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General, has proposed the creation of the post of Deputy Secretary-General as part of a management reshuffle and is hoping to secure funding from the General Assembly this autumn so that he can make an appointment in January.

Diplomats say that Japan is pushing the candidature of Mrs Ogata, who has emerged as the leading defender of the UN system in troubled spots as far-flung as the Congo and the former Yugoslavia, because it is losing its highest-ranking officials at the United Nations: Yasushi Akashi, the under-secretary-general for hu-

Tokyo's concern over its lack of representation in the higher ranks of the UN means that the proposed new post of deputy secretary-general may go to Sadako Ogata, reports James Bone

manitarian affairs; Yukio Takasu, the UN controller; and Hiroshi Nakajima, the departing head of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Mrs Ogata, who has more than a year left as UN High Commissioner for Refugees, has won widespread praise for her dynamic leadership of the Geneva-based agency and her frequent missions to the war-torn Great Lakes region of Central Africa. For a short time last year, she was even considered a contender in the election of a new United Nations Secretary-General.

She said during a visit to New York this week that she wants to wait before she decides whether to accept the new post. "I would like to think about it after the post is established and I know the exact functions and authority of the Deputy Secretary-General," she said. One UN source said Mrs Ogata wanted to decide where she could make the greatest impact, but might find it difficult to refuse if she is offered the post of Deputy Secretary-General.

Mr Annan, a Ghanaian, wants a deputy who can oversee UN activities

that straddle traditional bureaucratic boundaries and has set his sights on appointing a woman from an industrialised country. Some developing countries are suspicious about the new post and may try to block its creation, fearing that a high-profile deputy might overshadow the African Secretary-General.

Mr Annan originally asked Gro Harlem Brundtland, the former Norwegian Prime Minister, to take the post, but she is campaigning to succeed Mr Nakajima at WHO instead.

Japanese officials are unhappy about the loss of their three most senior UN officials at a time when Tokyo is under pressure to pay a greater share of the UN budget and is seeking a permanent seat on an expanded UN Security Council. Bill Richardson, the US Ambassador, recently called on Japan to make up

some of the shortfall expected when Washington cuts its United Nations contribution.

American legislation to cap its UN payments at 20 per cent of the UN budget could lead within the next three years to an unprecedented situation in which Japan pays as much in UN dues as the United States, even though its gross domestic product is half the size of America's.

Razali Ismail, the Malaysian Ambassador who has just finished his term as president of the UN General Assembly, said that America's determination to set conditions for the payment of its outstanding UN dues would cost it influence within the organisation and could spell the downfall of the United Nations. "Blind unilateralism will be the undoing of the United Nations," Mr Ismail said.

Beijing says judgment on Tiananmen must stand

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

BEIJING said yesterday that the original verdict on the pro-democracy demonstrations of 1989 — that they were part of a "counter-revolutionary rebellion" — would stand, despite a plea from a disgraced party chief that the judgment should be reversed.

Xiao Yang, the Justice Minister, told a news conference during the congress of the Chinese Communist Party that "with regard to the question of the incident that happened in 1989, the party has long made these judgments. There will be no change in that."

Zhao Ziyang, the former heir apparent to Deng Xiaoping, the late Chinese leader, is thought to be the author of a letter to the 2,048 delegates to the congress. The letter called for the verdict to be reversed, adding: "Everyone knows that at the time most of the students wanted punishment of the corrupt, and to promote political reform, and not to overthrow the Communist Party."

Mr Zhao, 77, was purged for showing sympathy towards the students' aims. President Jiang Zemin, a former party leader in Shanghai, has occupied the top party and state posts since the suppression of the demonstrations.

Mr Zhao's letter is circulating among conference delegates. Because of his more liberal political and economic views, Mr Zhao is still treated as a possible threat by party leaders, even though he has been under house arrest — he is occasionally permitted

to play golf — since May 1999. A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry would not address Mr Zhao's call for a Tiananmen reassessment, or say whether the letter was from him. The spokesman referred a questioner to the congress spokesman who said earlier: "We have not seen that sort of letter."

Mr Xiao said China would not grant medical parole to Wang Dan, the jailed dissident, despite appeals from his family three months ago that he may be suffering from cancer and requires a brain scan.

Wang Dan's health is now quite good, so he does not meet the conditions for medical parole," the minister said.

Mr Xiao admitted that Mr Wang had been suffering from a throat ailment but said he had "no major illness". Mr Wang, who is 77, was jailed two years ago for 11 years on charges of trying to overthrow the Government. He was previously imprisoned for leading the Tiananmen Square demonstrations.

Mr Xiao also accused the family of Wei Jingsheng, the veteran pro-democracy activist, of trying to stir up international opinion to back calls for his release on medical parole. Mr Wei, who is said by friends to be suffering abuses from prison authorities, would be granted such parole if he qualified. Mr Xiao said, indicating to analysts here that Mr Wei was indeed in poor health. Mr Wei is serving a 14-year jail term for plotting to overthrow the Government.

Burmese hold British democracy protester

FROM ANDREW CHANT IN BANGKOK

A YOUNG Briton faces a "brutal interrogation" by Burma's military intelligence after he was arrested while staging an anti-government protest in the centre of Rangoon.

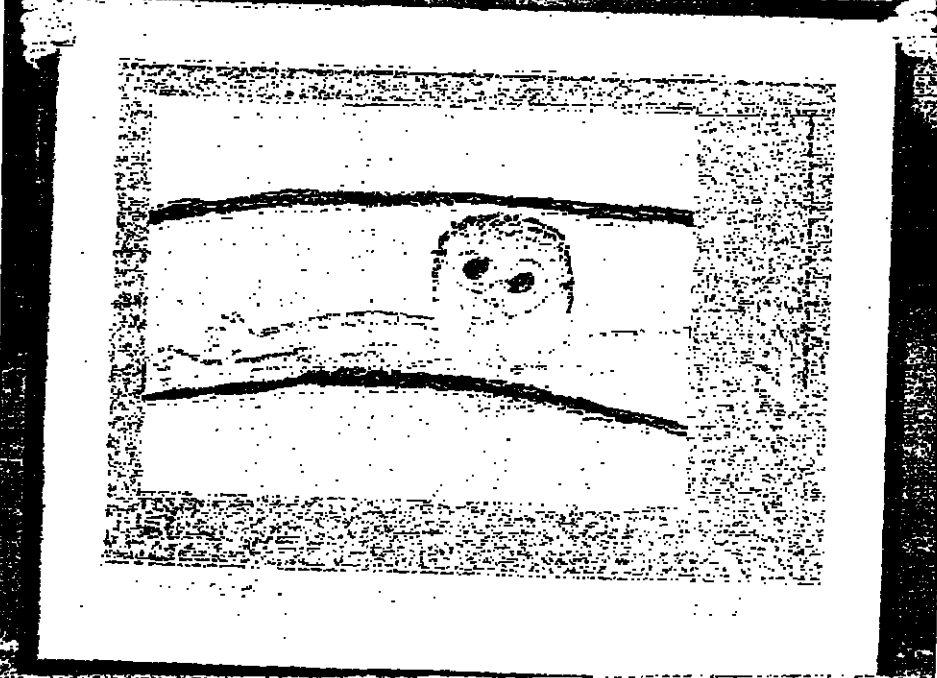
James Mawdsley, 19, from London, handcuffed himself to the gates of Rangoon's Public High School No. 6 and shouted pro-democracy slogans before police cut him free and took him away for questioning. Burma's military Government deployed troops in the area, which is near the Information Ministry, shortly afterwards to prevent any further demonstrations.

A Burmese activist in Bangkok said usually those considered political prisoners are taken for interrogation to Rangoon's feared Insein Detention Centre. "He will definitely be interrogated, and if he does go

to Insein they are known to be very brutal," he said. "We have many reports of torture by the military intelligence. We are hoping they will deport him quickly."

The activist, who asked for anonymity, said that before he had left for Rangoon Mr Mawdsley had told them: "I want to show the State [State Law and Order Restoration Council] that the world is watching them. I want the State to show love and kindness to their people."

Mr Mawdsley's action was meant to highlight the ninth anniversary of the takeover by the current regime. Witnesses said he spraypainted the Burmese word *metta*, meaning love and kindness, on the wall of the school, as well as handing out pro-democracy pamphlets.



Catherine Brown, seven, in Sydney yesterday with her winning design for the first official poster promoting the 2000 Olympics. It will be one of a series issued by the organising committee as limited editions before the 27th Olympiad

Suharto apologises for fires

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN JAKARTA

PRESIDENT SUHARTO apologised to Indonesia's neighbours yesterday for hundreds of forest fires that have produced a thick smoke haze over much of South-East Asia. "Indonesia offers its most sincere apologies," he said in a speech opening a three-day conference of environment ministers from the Association of South-East Asian Nations.

Forest and scrub fires, many deliberately lit despite a ban on land clearing, have been burning out of control for weeks on the drought-affected islands of Sumatra, Borneo, Java and Sulawesi. More than 300,000 hectares have been blackened and officials fear for the health of as many as 20 million people.

Huge palls of smoke have blocked out the sun in some parts of Indonesia. In Singapore and Malaysia, airports have been forced to close. Environment ministers from Malaysia and Singapore called on countries with fire-fighting expertise to assist.

□ Race riots: Mobs set fire to shops, houses and vehicles belonging to ethnic Chinese in Ujung Pandang, on the island of Sulawesi, after two Muslim sisters aged nine and 19 were hacked to death by a Chinese man who police said was depressed. The gangs also beat the man to death.

Leading article, page 19

A good cerebral breakfast.



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Kabila's Tutsi gunmen blight miracle boom

FROM SAM KILEY
IN KINSHASA

FOUR months after driving Mobutu Sese Seko from power, the Government of the renamed Democratic Republic of the Congo has worked economic miracles.

Inflation is negative, the currency has strengthened against the dollar, and the £5 million collected in tax each month has stayed in the central bank. But in sweeping away the late Mobutu's kleptocracy, Laurent Kabila has introduced a no-less confusing regime: rule by contradiction.

Promising democracy when his troops swept into Kinshasa in May, Mr Kabila swiftly banned all political parties and suspended parliament. Pledging himself to end the former Zaire's appalling record in human rights, he has blocked United Nations attempts to investigate allegations of the mass slaughter of Hutu refugees — yesterday again the Government denied UN investigators permission to search for evidence of massacres of Rwandan Hutu refugees in the northern town of Mbandaka.

Mr Kabila has insisted that



Kabila: a crackdown on corruption and looting

no foreign troops were involved in his Alliance of Democratic Forces for Liberation, but he relies heavily on Tutsi officers from Rwanda to run his army. And while allowing them to loot the homes of "Mobutuists" by way of payment, he has cracked down on corruption and intimidation.

The response of the Congolese has been no less bizarre. According to the latest Berlioz opinion polls, 52 per cent of potential voters consider his regime a "dictatorship", but 51 per cent said he was doing a good job as President. He has

closed the gap between himself and Etienne Tshisekedi, leader of the non-violent Opposition, by 12 points since March.

"The inconsistencies can probably be put down to the fact that no one is really sure who is running the country. But whoever is doing it is doing well economically," Francesca Bomboko, the leading pollster, said.

Kinshasa, the capital, has enjoyed a mini-boom during Mr Kabila's first 100 days. Fuel prices have fallen by half, food by a quarter, the zaïre has appreciated by two fifths against the dollar — and held its price.

After years of erratic payment in notes that often cost more to print than they were worth on the streets, the Congo's Civil Service is getting regular salaries. The Government has also started cracking down on "ghost" workers, estimated to make up 15 per cent of the public-sector workforce, and sacks those who, after years of corrupt indulgence under Mobutu, fail to show up for work.

Vukulu, a waitress, said she used to spend the equivalent of £7, her monthly wage, on a bag of cassava. "Since Kabila came, I can get rice and maize flour as well," she said. "It's better, of course."

But for all the short-term economic success, the presence of the grim-faced Tutsi guerrillas from Rwanda as the backbone of the Congolese Army remains a source of deep resentment. "How can a tiny country like Rwanda be in control of this country? We are the size of Western Europe," Marc Nzanga, a street trader, complained.

"Without the Tutsis, Kabila would not have an army. And without an army, he would not be able to stay in power. The situation is that simple," a Western ambassador said. "Every day they stay on, they embarrass the new Government in Kinshasa. But they have also proved useful in changing the culture of vice," he added.



Carried on the shoulders of students of the Boystown Jerusalem boarding school, Christoph Meili, a Swiss bank security guard, is given a hero's welcome in Israel yesterday for saving documents relating to accounts of Holocaust victims from a

Hero's welcome for 'righteous gentile'

bank shredder. Students cheered and shook hands with the guard who was fired for his action in January. Mr Meili, 29, who now lives in America, received the

school's 1997 "righteous gentile" award. He brought documents to Israel from the Union Bank of Switzerland in Zurich. He said he would give them to the Yad Vashem

Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem to help the research institute track down the heirs.

The police opened a criminal investigation against

him for violating Switzerland's strict bank secrecy laws. He said that he expected an apology from the Swiss Government. "In all the world I am a hero, and in Switzerland, they ask 'why do you steal documents?'" (AP)

Congo blocks office for British expert

New York: The Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the former Zaire, is preventing a British development expert from establishing a new United Nations office in Kinshasa (James Bone writes).

For the last two months the Congolese authorities have been refusing permission for Robin Kinloch, a long-serving British official at the UN Development Programme (UNDP), to take over as the new UN special representative in Congo at the head of a small UN office.

The dispute reflects the new Government's deep-seated

suspicion of the United Nations, which it blames for allowing the genocide of up to a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus in Rwanda in 1994, and then coming to the aid of the Hutu extremists who carried out the killings.

Negotiations between the United Nations and the Congolese authorities about the creation of the new UN office are continuing. Meanwhile, Mr Kinloch, 59, a Londoner who keeps a flat in Tunbridge Wells, remains stuck at his desk in New York, where he is currently the agency's director of human resources.

Israelis prepare for guerrilla war

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli Defence Force is training for a full-scale guerrilla war in the Palestinian-held territories because of the current breakdown in the peace process, according to a special briefing given to Israeli papers by a senior Israeli general.

Preparations for conflict were reported by Tel Aviv and Jerusalem papers yesterday, prompting David Levy, the Foreign Minister, to order an immediate investigation into the leak, which he described as "very serious".

It was meanwhile disclosed that plans to film part of a big-budget American movie star-

ring Harrison Ford in Israel had been scrapped because no insurance company would provide cover due to concern over the security situation.

Reporting the briefing, *The Jerusalem Post* said: "The Israeli Defence Force is bracing for possible skirmishes with Palestinian Authority fighters if there is further deterioration in the political situation. Operational plans are being readied, as is special training for regular and reserve units, including the Border Police."

The paper added: "The sources warned of an outbreak of guerrilla warfare and

an escalation in the use of weapons in the [occupied] territories if the current stalemate and mistrust between Israel and the Palestinians increases."

The briefing coincided with the end of Madeleine Albright's peace mission to the region. The US Secretary of State admitted that mistrust between Israel and the Palestinians had been greater than she expected.

Reporting the unnamed general's warning, *Haaretz* said: "He said the IDF was preparing for wide-ranging combat against guerrilla forces. The army is ready in

terms of arming itself and bolstering its defences."

The Government of Benjamin Netanyahu was meanwhile struggling to defuse a new Arab-Israeli flashpoint caused by the takeover of two homes in annexed east Jerusalem by militant Jewish settlers.

Tension around the heavily guarded houses in the suburb of Ras al-Amoud, home to 11,000 Palestinians at the base of the Mount of Olives, remained high as officials attempted to persuade the settlers to voluntarily leave the houses — bought legally by an American tycoon.

Bahrain rebuffed

BRITAIN has rejected fresh complaints from Bahrain that it is sheltering opponents of the Emir's rule (Michael Binyon writes).

The Bahraini Government, smarting from the presence in Britain of Islamic dissidents, yesterday called in the British Ambassador to emphasise its condemnation of those giving them refuge.

In response, Britain denied that it sheltered terrorists and said it would not forbid entry to anyone with proper documentation and a clean record.

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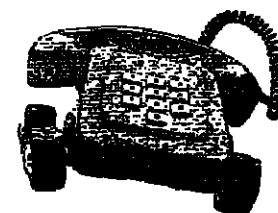
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The luck of Laura Bailey

I have always been lucky to be inspired by random, fluke meetings," says Laura Bailey, her eyes wide with sincerity.

Bailey is talking about her fortuitous meeting with a modelling agent, who had spotted her shopping in the King's Road shortly after she graduated. Now, at the age of 24, she has landed a lucrative advertising contract with Pretty Polly, currently relaunching their range of Opaque Tights. The previous contract was awarded to Jade Jagger, daughter of Mick.

But when Bailey talks of "fluke meetings" one cannot help thinking of that other meeting — the one with Richard Gere at the Dorchester Hotel in July 1994, when both were guests at a party in honour of the Dalai Lama.

Four months later, Bailey was captured by photographers clambering over the garden wall of Gere's Chelsea home. Overnight, her daily rate multiplied.

The following spring she moved to New York (Gere's home town), and relaunched her career. Three years on, here she is, back in London to begin work on a film, *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*. Her New York diary, which runs on the Condé Nast Website, is "in hiatus" (her words), so for the moment we are to be deprived of the tantalising mentions of "dinner with an Old Friend". Bailey writes the column out of sheer love. "Writing for Condé Nast wouldn't pay for my fireplace," as she puts it.

Face to face there are few episodes in her life that Bailey is prepared to discuss. The film is out of bounds — "I feel uneasy discussing it before we're actually on set, you know." Mention of Richard Gere has been more or less banned before the interview even begins.

Nevertheless you have to admire her professionalism. She has been paid to talk about rights, and talk about rights she will. "I'm thrilled now that the things I'm doing

The model who has landed a contract with Pretty Polly likes to present an air of mystery. Interview by Grace Bradberry



are things I really believe in, whether it's for frivolous reasons or for deeper ones." Bailey is an intelligent young woman (she left Southampton University with a first in English and philosophy) so one can be sure that tights fall into the frivolous category.

On every other subject but hosiery, Bailey is charming but cagey. I persevere. Why mention the Old Friend at all? "The reason I do it is not that conscious," she says. "It's not my personal diary. It's supposed to be impressions of New York." But she must

know that people will jump to conclusions. "Which is fine by me. I don't think I lose my mystery."

The mysterious aura of celebrity connections is indeed a virtual qualification to be the Pretty Polly girl. Bailey's predecessors have included Jennifer Flavin (now the wife of Sylvester Stallone) and Catrina Skepper (once linked with the Duke of York). Bailey is far too smart, however, to accept the epithet of The Girlfriend. "I've resisted a lot of labels," she tells me firmly.

By this stage I suspect that Bailey is a bit of a tease — albeit a very polite one. Everyone, I finally venture, will assume that the Old Friend is Richard Gere. "I disagree. I have a lot of old friends, people I don't want to mention. There isn't one pivotal God figure in my life."

It is a revealing expression. Bailey has said that Gere, now 48, offered her guidance and wisdom. She has more or less said that he was a father figure. Her own father, an Oxford professor, left her mother, a lawyer, when she was a child. After Bailey graduated, father and daughter became estranged.

Her rootlessness as a child explains something of her gritty determination to establish a decent lifestyle now. Only half-jokingly, she says her ambition was "to leave home". She now goes on shopping expeditions with her mother. Were they a mother and daughter shopping couple when she was younger? "We weren't a mother and daughter anything couple," she says.

But forming friendships is undoubtedly something she is good at. She has a network of friends in her own age group. Other friends are more useful. Harvey Weinstein, head of the film company Miramax, is a mate, and photographs of her chatting to Steve Martin at a fashion party have appeared in several glossies. Does she move in powerful circles? "Only in the way that anybody in my position does. In New York or London I find it a very small world," she says.

"It's easy for me to be accepted — because I don't walk in with a lot of ambition and desperation."



THE RETURN OF OPAQUES

OPAQUE tights were one of the great inventions of the 1980s. Women have been wearing them ever since but they haven't been really, truly fashionable for several years. Last winter it was crochet tights, the year before it was sheers. It has been an unforgiving time for the fashion groupie.

This autumn, the return of the mini-skirt means the return of nice, thick, cover-all tights. In anticipation, Pretty Polly has relaunched its Opaques range. So how will the experience of wearing woolly tights be different in the late 1990s?

To begin with the new opaques won't have the same propensity to sag and stretch at the knee and heel. The addition of 50 per cent more Lycra should also prevent them from ladderising.

Secondly, a great deal of trouble has gone into alleviating the unpleasant tight-waisted feeling that opaque tights used to have — the waistband has been widened. And there should be no more unwanted sheen — the addition of Microfibre gives them a velvety texture.

Most of us will wear just the one colour — black — although as ever we are to be offered a whole range of colours, including aubergine and forest green. It is a glamorous idea, but in the dead of winter the range of Knee Highs (pop socks to you and me) are likely to prove more of a draw.

DEBORAH BRETT



Top left: Aubergine and mauve knit dress by Nicole Farhi. Pretty Polly Opaques Velvets 50 tights in aubergine, £5

Above: Black knee-length dress from a selection at Whistles. Pretty Polly Opaques Shine 30 tights in silver, £4

Left: Yellow cardigan dress by Amaya Arzuaga. Pretty Polly Opaques Microsoft 60 tights in espresso, £4.50

Photographer: WILLIAM GARRETT
Stylist: Kim Undy Burden

Hair: Vicky Partridge

Make-up: Fiona Jolly

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WHAT
ELSE?



A drop of what you fancy: so good is the effect of alcohol in old age that it is now recommended in many homes for the elderly

A toast to old age

A patient consulted me recently about his father, who had become a heavy drinker in his eighties. The father, a successful, charming man, was a widower who had grown tired of retirement, solitude and, probably, of life. My initial thought was that he was depressed, but after many consultations it was obvious he was merely fed up. He could not understand his family's anxiety over his drinking — he never got drunk, did not create any problems and enjoyed alcohol. He had always been a wine lover, and if his intake had gone up from half a bottle to a bottle a night, did it really matter? I had to agree with him that it did not.

Many younger people who would hate to think of themselves as patronising are against drinking among older people. No sooner has an octogenarian picked up a glass than some busybody rushes to take it away, saying "Not at your time of life, Dad". But so good is the effect of alcohol in old age that it is now recommended in many old people's homes. This is a rediscovery of a previously accepted clinical truth. My father would recommend, as a tonic for the elderly, a glass of Guinness, dry sherry or cham-

In the final extract from his new book **Dr Thomas Stuttford** advises the elderly to carry on drinking

pagne, depending on the patient's finances. Research, much of it carried out in the US, has shown modest drinking helps older patients. When Anne Volper was supervisor of nursing at Cushing Hospital in Framingham, Massachusetts, she and Professor Robert Kastenbaum, then director of psychological research at the hospital, introduced beer into a ward of psychogeriatric men. The patients were also provided with a record player, cards and a smart shirt and tie every day. The aim was to restore their morale, and help them to fit better into society, even if that society was only hospital-based.

Within a month, the atmosphere of the ward in general, and the behaviour of the individual patients in particular, had improved. The amount of medication the patients needed was reduced, as was the number of patients requiring medication. Within two months, not one was taking Largactil (chlorpromazine), a powerful antipsychotic drug, whereas before 75 per cent of those in the ward had been taking it daily. Most of

TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH



DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

the patients had previously been incontinent and some had had to be physically restrained, but once they were treated in a more companionable way — and, despite the beer, regained control of their bladders — most were no longer disruptive.

Instead of sitting in rows, silent and unsmiling, they wandered around the ward, chatting to each other and the staff. They made small purchases for themselves outside the hospital and even began buying presents for others.

Each one of the improvements had played its part in restoring patients' morale, but the provision of just over half a pint of beer a day was deemed the pivotal element. The beer

was greeted with great enthusiasm, and when it was temporarily withheld — as it was on occasion to test patients' reactions — the delay was immediately noted.

The psychologist decided that the value of the beer — wine worked equally well — lay in the symbolic significance of drinking. It made old men parcelled away from the mainstream feel that they were again people in their own right. Just as in late adolescence beer had been the indicator that they were adults, so in old age and in the hospital ward the opportunity to drink convinced them they could still look after themselves.

When discussing alcohol intake with older patients, however, the possibility that they are taking other medicines that might be incompatible with alcohol or might enhance its effects must be borne in mind. Nowhere is this more true than in long-stay hospitals.

Professor Kastenbaum believes "there is now sufficient information to indicate that moderate use of alcoholic beverages is pleasurable and beneficial for older adults". His evidence is from many sources, including a study by the American National Institute of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse. This showed that when older people had one or two drinks each day, even in a

nursing or retirement home, they had better morale, were less likely to worry, slept better and, socially, were better orientated. Conversely, older people who refused their drinks were more likely to show regressive behaviour.

This study also suggested that alcohol improves the physique as well as the social and behavioural performance. But the most interesting finding is that alcohol stimulated residents' power of thought and led to more effective use of their remaining mental, social and emotional attributes.

● To Your Good Health: the Wise Drinker's Guide (Faber & Faber), by Dr Thomas Stuttford. Readers of *The Times* can buy the book for £10.99 (hardback), a saving of £2 on the publisher's RRP of £12.99, or £7.99 (paperback) by calling The Times Bookshop, 0900 134 459

Royally condemned + Political temptation + Morally lacking

People's monarchy?

NEARLY three weeks AD — after Diana — and we still can't budge the Royal Family off the front pages. They won't go quietly. More to the point, we won't let them. Is the monarchy to survive? Will it have to adapt to do so? Is the Royal Family prepared to listen to popular opinion? What is popular opinion? Most important of all, does it matter?

That last question, you may have noticed, is the one not being posed. Were you to ask it, the answer would, of course, be No. Popular opinion can't matter, except to the populace itself, because it is, constitutionally, politically speaking, an irrelevance.

Why more people aren't reminding us of that fact is only partly a surprise. The tabloid press, having killed its golden goose, now needs to start laying its own eggs, fast. Pretending that there is a debate going on, or pretending the debate has any significance, is one way to keep the royal story going, the story that sells papers like no other.

What I am not so clear about is why those above the fray, the constitutional historians and prospectors of the political scene, seem to think that something of potential importance might be imminent.

Clearly, the Royal Family does have a choice: it can abolish the Civil List (as it is rumoured, the Prince of Wales wishes); it can pander to public opinion; it can ignore it; it can trundle on as before. But even more clearly, the choice is a voluntary one: it exists as an opportunity to be taken, if desired, rather than an obligation that is imposed.

Certainly, we hear a great deal about the pressure the Royal Family is under to respond to popular opinion and it seems that the Queen and other members, having acted as they did after the petitions of the popular press on behalf of "the people", are no less exercised about it themselves. In a sense, they are colluding with the public prints to make us think that there is a live area for debate here. But think about it for a moment. The Royal Family has been

democracy, and behaving just badly or incompetently enough for us to exorcise it.

To change that could be to lose it. Either with the best of intentions, or in the same spirit of collusion already mentioned above, the Royal Family looks likely to streamline itself, to present a pared-down, shucked-off model of monarchy to the world. Big mistake.

It might be seen to be saying all the right things, listening to all the right voices, but by removing the more

Nigella Lawson



an awful lot more unpopular than it is now and survived, although admittedly without the tabloid press.

Nevertheless, whether or not it is popular is surely immaterial. What precisely are we to do to signal our disapproval of the Royal Family? Storm Buckingham Palace? I don't see it. Vote them out? Where's the ballot sheet that enables us to do that?

I am not suggesting that such a vote be taken. I am, if anything, a lazy republican, preferring the idleness of perpetuating the status quo than the activity of overthrowing it. And the Royal Family we have now is actually a republican's Royal Family, respectably neutered by a de-

glowing examples of inadequacy, all the Royal Family will be doing is clearing the field for more concentrated focus by the press. So long as it can push its stooges, the Fergies and the Princess Michaels of the world into the spotlight, it can keep a safe distance itself (although admittedly this measure can fail: we have seen that).

As for popular opinion: liked or disliked, it is really all the same thing for the monarchy. As they say in Hollywood, it's when they don't talk about you that it matters. So long as the papers think their circulations depend on the Royal Family, its members are, for all practical purposes, condemned, but for all political purposes, saved.

Why this American cheese ban grates

I WAS born too late to be political. I feel embarrassed at the idea of taking to the streets or going on marches (although I did, once, go on one to protest against Clause 28. My maternal grandmother was amazed to glimpse me on the evening's TV news, marching, unwittingly, under a banner reading "Lesbians of Lambeth").

But I am tempted to become political now — if street-talking could get rid of the poll tax, then I dare say a middle-class petition can safeguard unpasteurised cheeses.

This is the problem: the Americans, poor misguided souls, have been seized by an

irrational fear about unpasteurised cheeses, and have taken it upon themselves to press for a worldwide ban.

Feeble fables

SIGN of the times No 124B: a recently purchased edition of *Aesop's Fables*, though beautifully illustrated and lovely in every way, has one signal omission: the stories have had their time-honoured, summing-up morals lopped off.

Now that is taking the new, non-judgmental society just a little too far.

Having more money (and power) than sense, the US looks as though it can push pretty hard on this one. The UN food safety committee already looks to be caving in.

Can we stop it? I think we should try. Write care of the Specialist Cheesemakers Association, PO Box 448, Newcastle, Staffordshire ST5 0BF, to your MP and, more importantly, to Jack Cunningham, the Minister of Agriculture. It will be a nuisance for him, but it will make a nice change from letters about veal crates. And the only way to get things done is by annoying the right people.

REWARDING TIMES

Your chance to see the best of London Fashion Week

To celebrate London Fashion Week, *Times* readers are offered exclusive tickets for catwalk shows to be held at the Natural History Museum, London SW7, between noon and 8pm on October 1-3, 1997 for only £14, with a limited number of front row seats for £25.

In 11 spectacular shows, Vidal Sassoon presents *The Private View*, featuring the clothes of more than 20 top British designers, including Amanda Wakeley, Ben de Lisi, right, Ally Capellino, Clements Ribeiro, Pearce Fjonda, Workers for Freedom, Nicole Farhi and Sonja Nuttall. The shows, which support Macmillan

THE SUNDAY TIMES FESTIVAL OF FASHION

Cancer Relief, will unveil the designers' autumn-winter collections and give a preview of spring-summer 1998 collections. Visitors will have the chance to purchase discounted end-of-season clothes courtesy of BAA McArthur Glen, the designer-outlet specialist. Every reader who attends a show will be given a Vidal Sassoon goodie bag.



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GOUT: MORE THAN WHAT YOU DRINK

ALMOST two men in every hundred suffer from gout. The condition owes its fame not to its prevalence, but to its association with drinking, and this makes it a regular topic of conversation whenever men over 18 gather.

But gout is not exclusively a penalty paid for over-indulgence. The factors which precipitate an attack are linked to a raised uric acid level which can be caused by gluttony, excessive dieting, an unwise choice of food, lead poisoning, taking diuretic pills, injury or surgery to the joint, or an infection totally unrelated to the joints — as well as an excessive alcohol intake.

However, there is no surer way of precipitating gout in someone with a raised serum uric acid level than for them to go without breakfast and an adequate lunch, but still to find time to attend a drinks party on the way home to supper. Excessive alcohol may be only one of many ways of triggering an attack of acute gout, but it is a particularly potent one when combined with a crash diet and subsequent hours of starvation. In the long term, what is important is to find the risk factors for those with a raised serum uric acid.

A raised uric acid level is in most cases inherited. Obesity is another important factor when the weight gain has occurred early in adult life or if the patient has diabetes, a high blood cholesterol and a raised blood pressure. Doctors can unwittingly make

attacks of gout more likely by treating hypertension with diuretics, the so-called "water pills", as these increase the level of uric acid in the blood.

The association between gout and alcohol is so firmly fixed in people's minds that many other causes of the condition must have been under-treated. Patients have had to suffer heavy humour, together with advice to drink less, when what they really needed is some basic treatment.

Refusing the second glass of wine and avoiding shellfish, liver, kidneys and other foods rich in purines — nitrogenous compounds produced by the metabolism of certain proteins and liable to precipitate gout — may display admirable self-control, but will ultimately

prove inadequate to treat this biochemical disease, of which a gouty joint is only the most obvious sign.

Gout is now treatable. The blood level of uric acid can be lowered by taking allopurinol, marketed as Zyloric. 300mg a day is usually enough to stop acute gout, but some sufferers may need 600mg or even 900mg. However, allopurinol should not be taken for the first time during an acute attack: anti-inflammatory drugs are needed at this stage. Once the attack is well and truly over, a regular daily dose of allopurinol will in most cases keep the uric acid at a suitable level, the joints pain-free and the kidneys healthy.

'In the long term, it is important to find the risk factors'

Courtship falls foul of the law

Roger Scruton dissects the vogue for sexual harassment

Not so very long ago sexual advances were conventional, choreographed affairs, conducted according to rules which were understood and accepted by both parties. The man took the initiative, acknowledging the risk, and prepared for a rebuke, a cold shoulder or, if he deserved it, a slap round the face.

There was a fairly standard order of events, and escape routes were available at every major crossroads. The ugly, the inarticulate and the impecunious could all have a shot at it, provided they followed the rules and were prepared for disappointment. And success, when it came, was of varying degrees, depending on the morals and intentions of the parties. Above all, it was assumed that courtship was a co-operative enterprise, and that both parties were equally responsible for the outcome.

To study the case of President Clinton versus Paula Jones is to be made vividly and horribly aware of the extent to which things have changed. For, in its very unthinkability, this case helps to "re-realise" the office of President, to degrade the political process, and to remind American men that they are always and for ever at the mercy of those women to whom they have once, in some unguarded moment, made a sexual advance.

It is now possible for a woman, discovering that the owner of some remembered member has since been promoted to the highest office in the land, to instigate that long-delayed slap in the face, in the form of an action at law. And this action is calculated not merely to ruin the man, but also to lay waste the office that he occupies, to divert the attention of her national leader to the trivia that fill her narrow intellect, and both to endanger and degrade the State. It is obvious to anyone with common sense that the time for action is not now but then, that the offence can hardly have been so serious if it required Mr Clinton's elevation to the presidency for the victim to become incensed by it, that in any case there are occasions when even the grossest insult should be set aside in the national interest, and that damages awarded by a court of law are not part of the normal tit-for-tat or tit-for-tat of seduction. Still, none of that counts for anything in the war between the sexes, and its not counting is part of what Miss Jones and her supporters have set out to prove.

The case is unique only in the status of the accused. America is currently rocked with litigation over sexual matters and new categories of tort and crime have been invented (or, if you prefer, discovered) in the course of it. "Sexual harassment" is now a routine allegation; Mitsubishi has been forced to pay millions of dollars to female workers whose lawyers have alerted them to the profits involved in being victim of this tort. But just try to define sexual harassment in a way that allows the

ugly and the disadvantaged to make a sexual advance without the risk of litigation.

"Date rape", while not yet a legal category, is being widely represented as a routine crime, unrecognised only because men are still in the judicial ascendant. But all attempts to define it lead to the result that a woman can retrospectively withdraw her consent to the sexual act, and so destroy the man whom she misled into performing it. The fact is that for a man safely to embark on a sexual adventure, he must first make sure that he has extensive legal insurance, that he is irresistibly attractive and that the woman involved is not an American.

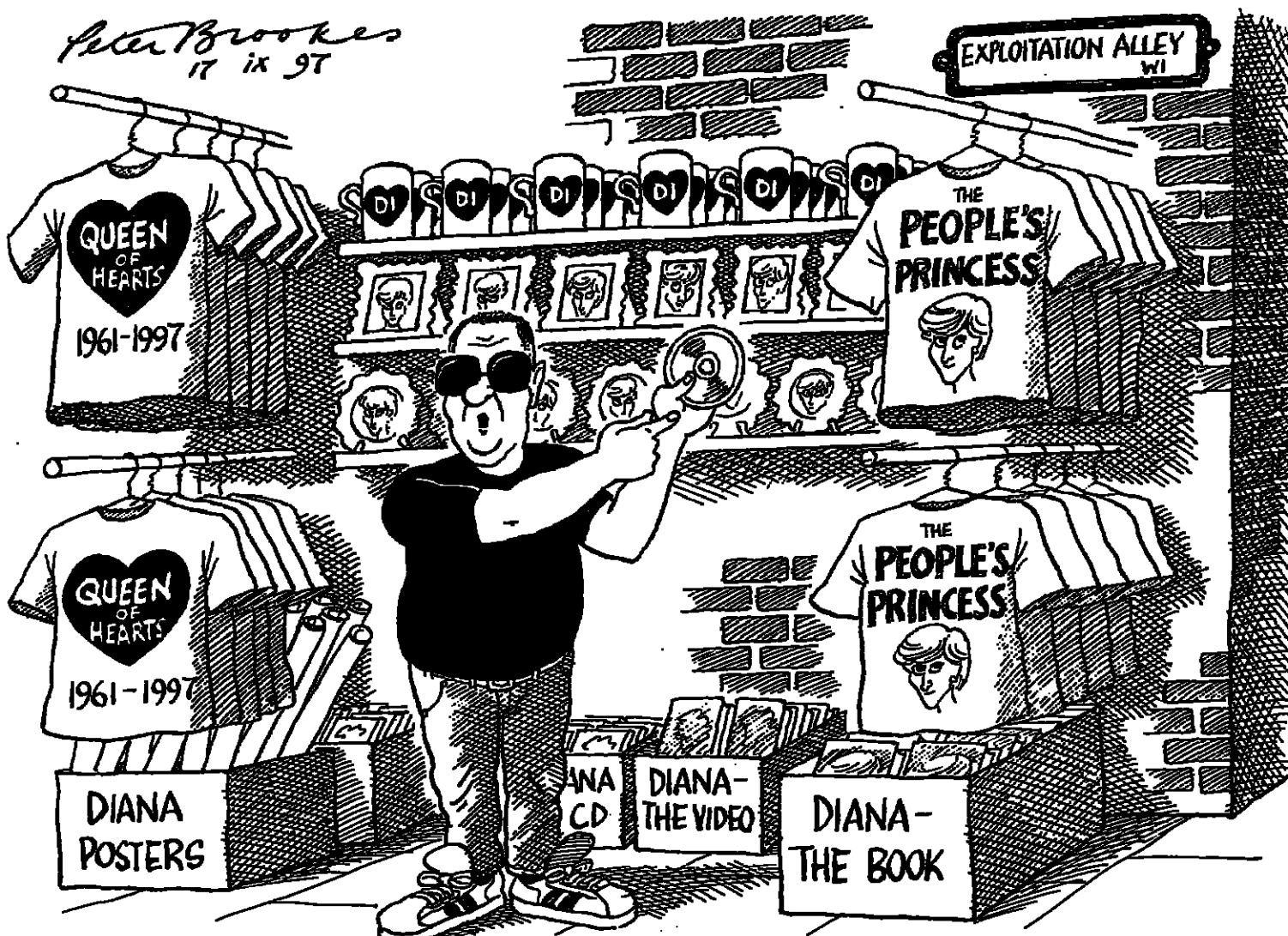
Conservatives, when they wake up to the implications of the Clinton case, are apt to blame feminism, and in particular the kind of persecutory and belligerent feminism that is now part of the career structure of the American campus. But this is to mistake the effect for the cause. Feminism is the defence that women have adopted, to the threat posed by men. The source of this threat is not men themselves — for the sexes were made to love each other and to accept their necessary failings. In the right circumstances women can slap down the unwanted advance and also forgive it, just as men can press on past the prudish hesitation and accept the final "no". But the circumstances that make these things possible have disappeared. They have disappeared because we have been "liberated" from the old conventions — because courtship, chastity and marriage have lost their privileged position, and advances are simply seen as smash and grab runs where only prize is sex. That is why the American catastrophe is now being rerun in Britain, and British men, too, are finding themselves in court for pinching the wrong bum at the wrong place and the wrong time.

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The collapse of courtship humiliates men as much as it defeminises women, and in the end will weaken the bond between the sexes to the point where normal marriage and the raising of children come to seem like quaint eccentricities. The problem runs deep, and it is not to be cured by a dose of new Labour. On the contrary, look at the Parliamentary Labour Party, and its favoured reforms, and you will see the old liberal agenda clearly inscribed in the book of the future.

There will be no return to pre-marital chastity, no return to the careful drama of courtship, no serious attempt to dissuade children from sexual experiment, and no recovery of the privileges once bestowed on marriage. Which means that women will continue to experience their desire for men as an intolerable weakness, and will continue to take their revenge on those who arouse it. No wonder that so many men are deciding that it is easier to be gay.



"ABSOLUTELY GENUINE & JUST IN - THE ONE MINUTE'S SILENCE CD..."

A dragon, not St David

A Welsh assembly may be no Government — but it will certainly be an Opposition

Poor Wales. She has glamorous Scotland for a sister and urchin Ulster for a brother. Ulster has been fostered out for the past quarter century. Scotland has now been married to a handsome parliament. They have promised to love, honour and obey each other till death do them part. The couple looked a treat at last week's wedding, and rich, too.

But Wales? Tomorrow Wales is being offered in marriage to the village idiot, take it or leave it. The Welsh assembly is a constitutional weakling. The London Government has no intention of allowing the couple ever to set up home. A parliament is fine for Scotland. Wales must make do with a scullery liaison. Wales, after all, is not a "proper country".

So believes the British Government. The evidence is there in the little-noticed White Paper, proposing a Welsh assembly. It is one of the most deceptive constitutional documents of our time. Authorship is claimed by the Welsh Secretary, Ron Davies, but the substantive clauses were written by Treasury officials determined to wreck Tony Blair's pledge to decentralise power and "enable many more matters that affect Wales to be decided in Wales". I turn below to whether Wales should vote for this document. But nobody should believe the Welsh assembly has anything in common with the Scottish parliament.

The Scottish parliament will have specific tax-varying powers. These will enable it to alter the size of its block grant, by varying income tax up or down. More important, it can determine the amount of money available for local services. It can alter or end council rate-capping, vary business rates and introduce new local taxes of its own. The Scottish parliament will be fiscally potent.

The Welsh assembly has none of these powers. It can choose a "Cabinet" from its majority party, whose head has the local government title of leader. This Cabinet cannot decide the size of public spending in Wales. Its annual grant of £7 billion is made up of department budgets fixed by the Treasury, an arrangement which "will be retained... based on the existing longstanding formula". The White Paper's assertion that "the assembly will have the maximum discretion to determine and manage its own spending priorities" is ludicrous.

For maximum read minimum. The Welsh Cabinet and assembly will have less freedom than a local council. A council can cut its council tax demand by cutting services below Whitehall's targets. The assembly cannot alter any tax. It can, in theory, switch cash from education to industrial promotion, but let it try. Power over public sector "pay and ratings" will remain in London. The assembly cannot change council taxes or fix local business rates. Capping is "subject to government review", which means it will stay as now. Business rates, the White Paper

curtly points out, "cannot be increased by more than the retail prices index and can only be set at a lower level by Treasury order".

In law-making the Scottish parliament is sovereign, except for matters such as defence reserved for Westminster. On the other hand, Welsh laws "will still be made by the Parliament at Westminster". The assembly may pass only "secondary" legislation if permitted by a primary Act passed in London. The assembly's power to decide health priorities is non-existent. Its power over Welsh universities is non-existent. In schools it has a discretion only over curriculum. The Welsh Secretary and Welsh Office remain in being. So will most of Wales's multifarious quangos, their scope dictated by the Treasury because quango budgets comprise a third of the Welsh block grant.

Powers vested in the assembly are those of advice, consultation, partnership and liaison, the usual centralist fobbing-off. I cannot see what a Welsh Cabinet will spend its time doing. It can appoint quango members, such as to the tourist board and new development agency. Tony Welsh Secretaries so polluted this process that democratising "the list" is progress, though much will hinge on whether the new assembly is packed with the old Cardiff gang. For Mr Davies to deny the new Cabinet the right to choose even the BBC Governor for Wales and the board of

Welsh Channel 4 is a measure of his cynicism.

This assembly is indeed the much-derided talking shop. It will parody the old joke, that Wales's steelworks may close but the mouthworks stay open. The Welsh Secretary will work "in partnership" with the Welsh Cabinet, but "will not be obliged to support the view which the assembly has expressed", when taking decisions on laws or finance. His one obligation is to liaise with the chairman of the assembly subject committees. In other words, the assembly will be a colonial "Legco", a veneer of democracy on a centralist framework. Whitehall's control freaks may have been driven south of Hadrian's Wall. They will not be driven east of Offa's Dyke.

What should Welsh voters make of this? Is one slice of devolution better than half a loaf? The case for a Welsh assembly was never strong. "Wales was never conquered," says the slogan, but the reason is that there was never a nation to conquer. Since the birth of the modern state under Henry Tudor, Wales has been ruled from England. There is unquestionably a Welsh people, a religion, a language and a culture. But these do not in themselves constitute a nation, though they do validate a degree of regional autonomy.

Wales's handicap is that it has never enjoyed a political entity to match its cultural identity. The nearest to a political culture has been the "Taffia" which, until the coming of the Tory quango, dominated Glamorgan. Welsh politics has been that of local government. In planning, it has been corrupt by any standard, witness the razing of old districts in the Valleys to enrich local builders, the bungalow sprawl along the South Wales coast.

Whether the assembly will prove less corrupt than the existing coalition of local councils and an English colonial regime is a crucial test. Whether we have an assembly or not, every local authority in Britain needs

reinvigorating and cleansing. All must have some tax-varying powers to make them more accountable. That should be a nationwide enterprise. It has nothing to do with forcing North, Mid and South Wales into a parody of a parliament, squeezed between local and central government.

Yet I would take even this paltry slice of devolution. The assembly is an elected body to monitor (nominally to employ) an executive that owes allegiance to London. Any such body is better than none. It has power over some appointments, regional development, planning appeals, arts and culture. These functions should be subject to democratic oversight. The White Paper makes them more so than now.

A better reason for voting "yes" lies elsewhere. The title of the White Paper is shockingly ironic. It offers "A Voice for Wales" with no mention of a government. A better title would have been "An Opposition for Wales". I predict that the Welsh Cabinet's impotence will free it to make life hell for the Welsh Secretary. The less power granted to a democratic assembly, the less responsibility it will feel for government. Every shortcoming in Welsh public service will be blamed on London. With no accountability for any taxes — the assembly's biggest weakness — the Welsh Cabinet can be expected to thrash London without mercy. The White Paper is politically illiterate. The proposed Welsh assembly will not be the Government of Wales but the reverse, the Opposition.

As such, the assembly will constitute an important new pluralism in British democracy, the opposition of region to centre, rather than of party to government. The Tories have become irrelevant on devolution. William Hague was yesterday defending Treasury control as if he has forgotten he is no longer in power. Opposition to the Blair Government must come from elsewhere. The Welsh assembly will be more a dragon than a St David. Whereas the Scottish parliament will be accountable for the quality of Scottish services under its aegis, the assembly will not. It will enjoy nuisance power without responsibility.

Tomorrow's Welsh vote is no more than a half-hearted stumble down Britain's crowded road to constitutional reform. But it is a stumble in the right direction. This may not be much of a "yes" vote. It is enough.

Alan Coren



A recipe for immortality, not entirely to my taste

Throughout my life — much of which has been spent staring vacantly out of windows, propitious circumstances for woolgathering — I have toyed with various daft fantasies as to how I should like that life to have left its mark after it had no thought left. As a small boy, I favoured something military: Coren's Last Stand, perhaps, Coren's Drift, the Charge of the Coren Brigade, even the War of Coren's Ear. A little later, sporting memorial seemed sweeter: the Coren Riband, the Coren End at Lord's, the Coren Flop. Since, however, such honours could come only as testament to a prowess to which I soon found it was pointless to aspire, I moved, at 13, having had a poem about acne accepted for the school magazine, to daydreams of the Coren Simile and the Coren Memorial Theatre; until I went up to what I hoped might someday be called Coren College, whereupon I threw in, for good measure, the Coren Chair, Coren's Uncertainty Principle, and, admittedly a long shot, Duke Coren's Library.

Things went a mite quiet after that, as professional and domestic life were forced to preoccupy themselves with busy reality; though there was, of course, the odd inert spell when the wool gathered into baggy shapes like Coren's Weekly Advertiser, the Coren Method (a system of bringing up children by shouting at them) and — until it died of what briefly made different from its peers — the Coren Rose. But it was finally borne in upon me, and high time too, that the options for immemorial achievements had dwindled to the point where the only chance of posthumous imperishability lay in contracting, say, Coren's Syndrome or Coren's Palsy, ie, something so unfathomable that the top medical bananas would have no other course but to shake their heads, pocket their stethoscopes, and ask me if my affairs were in order.

Until, that is, last Friday, when, at the eleventh hour, a window on immortality opened; or, rather, a letterbox. A well-known cook, whom I shall not identify for reasons which will become obvious, had written to explain that she was compiling a book of new seafood recipes, and since one of these had been inspired by a piece I had written a year or so back on the difficulties of eating squid, she was very keen to name it after me. She wants to call it Gumbo Coren. I cannot, of course, preempt her by revealing the components, but I think I break no confidences when I tell you that the dish contains a lot of legs and ink.

Um, I put the letter aside, and stared out of the window. There were, no question, many noble precedents: Tournedos Rossini, Peach Melba, Sole Waleska, Omelette Arnold Bennett, all of which had unarguably conferred not only immortality but one into which untempered subsequent generations had happily tucked, blessing the name even as they mopped up the sauce and picked their teeth for the last savoury shard.

Why, then, did I hesitate? Two reasons, different, yet eminently reasonable: the first, and why I haven't named my generous would-be benefactress, is that I have no idea if her recipe, though many have been superb, is any good. I shouldn't want diners to take one mouthful, and, through it, mumble: "My God, what is this muck?", only to be told what it was. Worse yet, given the volatile properties of some of the constituent bivalves, I shouldn't want anyone to lurch groaning to the bathroom in the middle of the night, cursing my name, nor, worst of all, my descendants to wake some far morning to banner headlines shrieking "Lord Mayor's Banquet Devastated by Gumbo Coren, Hundreds Rushed to Intensive Care". But if I really come clean on this, it is the less reasonable reason which makes me the more apprehensive. Hardly a reason at all, in truth; more a sort of unease. It is the name. For we are talking perpetuity here, and I doubt I am alone in feeling that, while Brigade and Simile and College, even Peach, are beyond reproach as immortal companions, one would not wish one's patronymic to spend eternity dragging Gumbo behind it. I have therefore written to its inventor, suggesting that her dish by any other name would smell as sweet, and that, should she still wish to do me honour, I'd be more than happy with Gumbo Crickewood.

Labour truant

HYPOCRISY is always an awkward charge to defend. So have sympathy, please, for one Christine Blower, Luddite president of the NUT. She joined David Blunkett, Education Secretary, yesterday to launch a £20 million campaign against truancy — having just been booted off a London education authority for repeated failure to turn up to meetings.

A teacher's representative on the Hammersmith and Fulham Education Committee, Blower has missed every meeting since October 1996, including one which voted to close a primary school employing NUT members. Members lose their place if they fail to turn up for six months.

Worse still, in March Blower embarrassed Blunkett by revealing that she had kept her six-year-old girl off school for three days in protest at a new scheme that dared to test pupils. Mark Loveday, a Tory councillor, said: "She skives off her meetings and encourages a six-year-old to skip school. How can Mr Blunkett share a platform with her?"

A spokesman for the NUT, which played host to Blunkett and Co yesterday, squirmed: "Chris-

tine is forced to travel a lot. This may have caused difficulties with her attendance at meetings."

Not a prayer

GEORGE CAREY's problem is that he has run into a Prime Minister who knows about religion. Consequently, Tony Blair has rejected both of the Archbishop's nominations for the bishopric of Liverpool.

It emerged amid some embarrassment that the first, Gavin Reid, Bishop of Maidstone — who is noted mainly for shaving in the pulpit — was a friend of Carey.

Now the second name on the Archbishop's list has come my way. And he, surprise, surprise, is also a great old chum of Carey. For some years "Peter" Broadbent has been a big swinger on the General Synod's powerful standing committee, chaired by Carey.

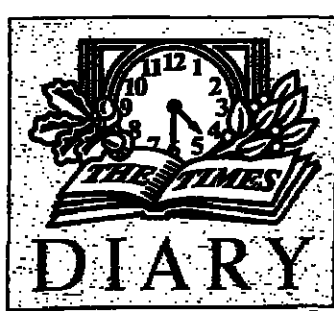
"They are great mates and Broadbent is very influential," says a senior source. "Both lefty evangelists, of course." Indeed, I gather that it was Broadbent's old Labour political views that alarmed Blair. Through much of the 1980s "Pete" was a Labour councillor and chairman of planning in Islington; and as Blair was a confirmed Band A council taxpayer in the borough, he well remembers that council's profligate spending programme.

● MAGGOTS, flies, the stench of rotten flesh — Sensation at the Royal Academy. But is there a risk of bubonic plague? Part of a Damien Hirst exhibit has escaped. The flies within the artist's A Thousand Years piece, which features the rotting head of a cow, are liberating themselves into the exalted atmosphere of the Royal Academy each time the exhibit is opened up

to feed them. Says a patron: "It's a God-awful pong."

THE most important story of the day is clearly news of this year's Nanny of the Year award, organised by *The Lady* magazine. Favourite is Veronica Crook, nanny extraordinaire to the family of my colleague Lord Rees-Mogg. Her most arduous task during her 30-year stretch has been to look after his son Jacob, the fogeyish young financier who is often mistaken for a coathanger.

Veronica travelled down to Eton weekly to change her young master's sheets and when he was installed in Hong Kong she flew out to tidy his apartment. More recently she was dragged up to Scotland during the last election to canvass



to feed them. Says a patron: "It's a God-awful pong."

First lady

WHEN will the lickspittles stop all this royal title-tattle? Latest, and unluckiest, offender is the former Dean of Winchester, Trevor Beeson, who is to publish *The Dean's Diaries*. They include an unflattering reference to the Duchess of York. He describes her as "gallumphing" after she informally asked of him at tea one day, "How are you, Trevor?" This, he will claim, was an inappropriate form of address. Maybe he was just embarrassed because he is called Trevor.

support for Jacob's lunatic attempt to win File Central for the Tories. "It is inconceivable that she will not win," he trills.

● COMMENT on Henri Paul, Dodi Fayed's late chauffeur, from Noel Gallagher, rock musician. "Drivers always go too fast to get bigger tips," he says. "I always tell them to slow down."

Yorked

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Film noir

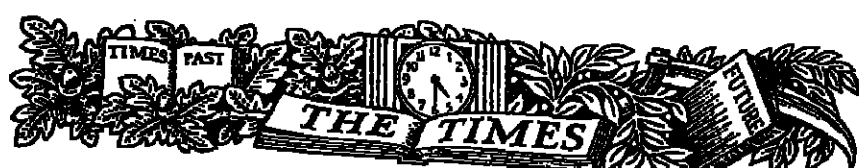
FIRST the death, then the movie. Moguls are engaged in a battle to produce the first, gruesome, cinematic treatment of the demise of fashion designer Gianni Versace.



Versace in his heyday

Filming of *The Versace Murder*, is under way at Miami Beach. It will be completed by Christmas. "It's a strange love story," says Menahem Golan, producer of the £3 million movie. The murderer was more than in love with Versace. He wanted to be Versace. Unavailable is the houseboat where his presumed murderer hid out and later died. An Italian film producer has already bought the rights.

P.H.S



WALES'S WEEK

Wales deserves better government and better arguments

And then there was Wales. Last week's referendum in Scotland, although always likely to deliver a "yes" to devolution, was a passionate, if truncated, political drama. Tomorrow's vote in Wales, although apparently more finely balanced, seems to have quickened fewer pulses on either side of Offa's Dyke. The sense that Welsh devolution is a constitutional coda to Scottish home rule is emphasised by the gap between the votes. The Government originally argued that Wales needed an extra week to ensure that its assembly proposals were scrutinised on their merits rather than muddled with Scotland's parliament scheme. Now, however, Labour urges the Welsh to follow the Scottish example and not be left behind as parliamentarians are parcelled out: it is a case of keeping up for the Joneses. There are several powerful arguments for Welsh devolution but "don't be left behind" is not one of them. It is not an argument at all: it is the logic of the lemming.

The Secretary of State for Wales, Ron Davies, argues that a "no" vote from Wales would run counter to the constitutional trend, leaving the Principality governed from Westminster just as Scotland, Northern Ireland and London move towards greater autonomy. But would that necessarily be a bad thing? If the United Kingdom stands aloof from a European single currency in 1999 it too will be bucking the trend. It will also be avoiding a potentially unstable and expensive political experiment.

Wales without an assembly will maintain its voice in the Cabinet while that of the Scottish Secretary diminishes in influence. Wales without an assembly, but with the present system of administrative devolution and its hugely successful development agency, will continue to enjoy as much autonomy as any English region can

conceive of, as well as considerably higher per capita spending. A "no" vote, far from leaving Wales isolated, would leave it in a position similar to, but better subsidised and more influential than, the majority of the United Kingdom.

The insistence that Wales follow Scotland's lead for the sake of constitutional neatness is not only inconsistent in logic, it is also inaccurate in detail. The assembly that is offered to Wales is a toothless dragon in comparison to the parliament promised to Scotland. In considering Scotland's options last week we argued that the worst vote of all was for a parliament without tax-raising powers. Yet that is what Wales is being offered.

Having stripped away the bad arguments for the assembly on offer, several good ones remain. For all its tensions between Cymric North and Anglophone south, between rural hills and the urban Valleys, Wales has an identity, administrative and cultural, which deserves better political expression. An assembly elected in a manner which reflects the diversity of Wales could also encourage a spirit of pluralism in the Principality. Wales has suffered for too long from clientism and cronyism, from the Tories who ran central government and the Labour Party in local government. Wales has also suffered from having its Secretary of State held up to insufficient scrutiny by Westminster committees which were an inadequate counterweight to his authority.

There is no guarantee that a Welsh assembly will live up to its supporters' hopes. The manner in which Labour is making its pitch in Wales does not altogether inspire confidence. The case is not conclusive. But, on balance, it is persuasive. Wales should accept this imperfect improvement in its government.

WAR OF THE WELD

Republicans must not miss the Massachusetts message

William Weld went to Washington but he will not be moving to Mexico City. Senator Jesse Helms has sworn that the Foreign Relations Committee would not support the former Governor of Massachusetts in his attempt to become US Ambassador to Mexico and he proved as good as his word. Mr Weld was dismissed without the courtesy of public hearings. Although his electoral options now look extremely limited, Mr Weld will survive this encounter. The Republican Party, on the other hand, has embarrassed itself and risked alienating a significant section of the American electorate.

Ideology rather than Latin American policy framed this political struggle. Mr Weld's outlook was condemned for its outright "liberalism" by Mr Helms and his supporters. In this instance, the former Governor's willingness to contemplate the medical use of marijuana prompted the attack from the conservative Senator. Had circumstances been different, Mr Weld's sympathies for legalised abortion, feminism, or homosexual equality would have been held up as the appropriate heresy. In truth this was a contest that the Senator would never have allowed Mr Weld to win.

In the United States, "liberalism" has normally been understood as support for an activist and expanding role for the government in public life. If so, Mr Weld is a remarkable example of it. In his first term as Governor he cut state spending in actual — not inflation-adjusted — terms, privatised several state services, cut public sector employment, introduced a radical package of welfare reform, expanded school choice, and reduced taxation on nine occasions. All this took place in a state with one of the strongest Democratic traditions in America.

Mr Weld can legitimately claim to have implemented at least as much of the Con-

tract With America in his state as Newt Gingrich and his colleagues have so far enacted in Washington. What he represents is not liberalism but a much more complex combination of free market economics, an empowerment approach to social policy, progressive instincts on matters of personal lifestyles, and a cautious but committed internationalism. It is that mixture which both explains his wide appeal in Massachusetts and the hostility of Senator Helms.

Mr Weld has been an unusually outspoken figure. But the policies which he has promoted are not unique in his party. Governors across the United States have taken a different but distinctly conservative path from their congressional colleagues. That has been especially true of the largest American states, most of which are controlled by Republicans. Governor Pete Wilson of California launched an ill-fated bid for the White House on a similar basis last year. Mr Weld was his most senior supporter. Governor Christine Todd Whitman of New Jersey may run for President on the same set of themes in three years' time.

Senator Helms has won this particular battle. The Republican Party must not permit him to win the wider war. Mr Weld stands very close to the vital centre of American politics. It is unlikely that any candidate can capture the Oval Office without at least some appeal to this constituency. In the last two presidential elections that terrain was forfeited — a mistake that Bill Clinton eagerly exploited. American conservatism requires a rather broader base than the White South and evangelical Protestants. It might control Congress but cannot command the country on that narrow stance. Mr Weld may be destined to return to Massachusetts. His message should not be similarly constrained.

A BURNING ISSUE

Forest fires that Indonesia must do more to prevent

A suffocating, polluting haze stretches over the vast Indonesian archipelago and blankets neighbouring Malaysia and Singapore. It is caused by forest fires in Sumatra and Kalimantan that were deliberately set but are now, in the worst Indonesian drought for 50 years, raging out of control over some 740,000 acres. Some 20 million Indonesians are choking in the foul atmosphere, as are Singaporeans. Around Kuala Lumpur, where cars have to use lights at noon, the murk has reached levels that pose a serious health hazard. Yesterday's meeting of the region's environment ministers in Jakarta was understandably short on South-East Asian legendary diplomatic courtesies.

Indonesia's neighbours have good reason to be impatient. This economic and environmental catastrophe is an annual event, exacerbated by drought but caused by routine forest clearing practices that the Indonesian Government admits destroy \$96 billion worth of timber even in a normal year. In 1992 and 1994, fires swept over around 5 million acres; since the Pacific El Niño effect this year could delay the wet season by several months, the damage could be even greater by the time the rains come.

Last week, President Suharto ordered an end to all land clearance. But this belated action puts in question why "controlled" forest burning is a method permitted in the first place, or why logging companies are allowed to burn off unused wood from forestry operations that would more safely

be recycled. This mistaken policy is part of Indonesia's broader failure to manage its forests properly. In 1991, 120 million acres were designated as "protection forest", closed to developers; today, that area has mysteriously shrunk to 49 million. As for Indonesia's commitment to "sustained perpetual yield" for exploited forest, it is incompatible with current practice. Clear-felling has damaged watershed areas, leaving grasslands vulnerable to man-made fire.

In theory, permits to burn forest areas must be obtained. In practice, regulation barely operates. Sanctions would admittedly be difficult to police against migrant farmers who practise slash and burn cultivation. But if Sarwono Kusumaatmaja, Indonesia's Environment Minister, is correct that 90 per cent of forest burning is the work of "large forestry and plantation companies and the Government's own transmigratory programme" of rural resettlement, the failure to take preventive action is inexcusable. The Government blames provincial authorities. But they are understandably wary of tackling major logging and plantation interests intimately linked to powerful government figures in Jakarta. Other countries have shown that it is possible to exploit tropical forests sensibly and sustainably. Indonesia's failure to do so is part of a wider syndrome, that of the crony capitalism which is increasingly denting the domestic and international credibility of a once successful but always authoritarian regime.

A space for human rights in UK law

From Lord Scarman

Sir, Recent letters to *The Times* (August 18, 27; September 11) may have led many to doubt the wisdom of incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into British domestic law. The fear is that incorporation would diminish the legislative sovereignty of Parliament.

The fear is groundless. We have incorporated Community law with direct effect into our law without threat to Parliament's sovereignty. We can do the same with the European law of human rights. The model to follow is section 2 of the European Communities Act 1972.

A letter is not the appropriate place to give a point of law. The case for incorporation is well put by Mr Ben Emmerson in his article printed in the *European Human Rights Law Review* (Sweet & Maxwell), issue no 4 (report, September 15).

I hope those now drafting our Bill of Rights will take heed and incorporate the parts of the European Convention which directly affect the rights of the people.

Yours sincerely,

SCARMAN,
House of Lords,
September 10.

Sinn Fein and IRA

From Mr Harry Barnes, MP for Derbyshire North East (Labour)

Sir, If the Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, genuinely wishes the Unionists to participate in talks he should help to boost their confidence in his movement's credibility by disowning the IRA's statement of last week (report, September 12) that it "would have problems with sections of the Mitchell principles" — presumably with total disarmament of paramilitary organisations — which Sinn Fein has endorsed.

The statement was, in my view, a shameless attempt to establish a false distinction between the IRA and Sinn Fein. We should heed the wise words of the former Irish Prime Minister, John Bruton, speaking on Thursday: "I have been Taoiseach... and I have seen the reports from the security services. On this issue Sinn Fein and the IRA are part of the one movement. They act under the same direction, to the same agenda. One uses violence or the threat of violence, the other uses political methods."

Accepting a false distinction between the IRA and Sinn Fein could pave the way to Sinn Fein remaining in the talks while the IRA tactically uses "armed struggle" at key points in the negotiations to force the pace. I fear that it might not be long before the IRA fully returns to beatings and even the occasional murder, as during its first "complete" ceasefire.

There are worrying signs that this has already begun. Last Thursday morning republicans committed an act of violence in West Belfast. According to the respected human rights organisation, Families Against Intimidation and Terror, masked and armed men took over a house in the Divis area of Belfast, handcuffed and questioned a man and also questioned his wife. The couple were held against their will and their house was searched. Sinn Fein should immediately renounce this violent intimidation.

The IRA and loyalist ceasefire should be accompanied by the establishment of a new, publicly funded but independent body which would monitor events on the ground and act as a focal point for complaints from Catholic and Protestant communities about any continuing paramilitary human rights abuses.

Regular reports from the body to Parliament would allow public representatives and the two Governments to assess whether the ceasefire is genuine and whether those republican and loyalist parties should continue to be eligible to participate in the talks.

If Sinn Fein stays in talks it must also be under constant pressure to renounce for themselves, and to oppose any effort by others, to use force, or threaten to use force, to influence the course or the outcome of all-party negotiations. This is a crucial part of the Mitchell principles.

The IRA must have recognised its "problems" with Mitchell before Sinn Fein's endorsement. It is reasonable, therefore, to conclude that the IRA statement was intended to provoke Ulster Unionists into abandoning the talks. For all their talk of dialogue, it seems as if Sinn Fein/IRA would in reality prefer the Unionists to stay away from talks so that they can be castigated as the obdurate force.

Yours sincerely,

HARRY BARNES,
House of Commons,
September 16.

Dismantled fences

From Air Marshal Sir John Curtis

Sir, It was very heartening to see yesterday's picture of the "Ladies of Greenham Common" pulling down the wire surrounding the former cruise missile base.

I do hope they gave thanks for the determination of the Western governments in maintaining the nuclear deterrent that finally ended the Cold War and brought about the end of Soviet communism.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN CURTIS,
Flat 7, 35 Buckingham Gate, SW1,
September 16.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

How best to remember the Princess

From the Executive Director of Children's Aid Direct

Sir, Your leading article of September 12, "Diana's Day", quite rightly promotes the idea that "pilgrims" will need a permanent memorial to visit.

Whatever memorial is to be created, it must capture the essential elements that made the Princess so prominent. They went beyond beauty and fame. They were daring, a lack of orthodoxy, determination, a hands-on approach and in many cases in support of challenging and unpopular causes: Aids, homelessness, landmines, leprosy. Her focus was on the distance and displaced in Britain and beyond. Her greatest skill was in listening to those with no voice; she gave them space and therefore a place.

Surely these attributes and interests must direct us in seeking a lasting memorial that is vital, invites participation, challenges. Enshrining is not what we need; we need to be inspired.

Initiatives in memory of Diana might be an exhibition and conference centre, run by young people and specifically offering employment for them: a centre of excellence for training in sports and youth interests, including the arts; a focal information, meeting and management base for start-up charities; a publishing house for youth issues and development ideas; an ideas bank and participation centre; an action station for youth; a voluntary service for UK work.

Even one of these ideas would make a difference and create a true and vital memorial.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID H. W. GRUBB,
Executive Director,
Children's Aid Direct,
82 Caversham Road,
Reading, Berkshire,
September 12.

From Mr Edward Leigh, MP for Gainsborough (Conservative)

Sir, It is sad that Constitution Hill and The Mall are once again filled with roaring traffic.

One of the delights of the recent otherwise sad times has been on a summer's evening to walk The Mall, with thousands of others, without

having to dodge cars.

What better memorial to Princess Diana than to open up a major pedestrian thoroughfare from Trafalgar Square to the top of Constitution Hill and then, by means of a proper separation of traffic and people, through Hyde Park Corner and on to Kensington Palace via Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens — a people's park for a people's princess?

A suitable monument could be placed in The Mall, but we need not spurn other ideas to make this a people's park and walkway. Must every beautiful avenue in London be given over to the god car?

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD LEIGH,
House of Commons,
September 12.

From Mr David James

Sir, No one can fail to applaud the generous decision of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to forgo VAT on the sale of Elton John's record *Candle in the Wind* in favour of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, thus greatly increasing the fund's value.

Perhaps he could extend this to all charitable activities which are subject to VAT.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
DAVID JAMES,
The Count House,
Boscombe, St Just, Cornwall,
September 11.

From Mr R. John Newcombe

Sir, Recent ideas or suggestions for a lasting memorial to the late Princess have surely reached an abnormal peak. As far as I am aware not one existing, queen or prime minister has ever had a national Bank Holiday named after them.

Her early death was extremely tragic but please, a sense of proportion must be brought to bear on this matter.

Yours faithfully,
R. JOHN NEWCOMBE,
Ashbyes, High Street,
Mickleton, Gloucestershire,
September 13.

Banana imports

From Mr Paul Weiser

Sir, As director of a company representing the interests of some 20 UK and EU fruit importers, with a combined annual turnover of at least £150 million, may I comment on the furor created by the World Trade Organisation's ruling on the EU banana licence scheme, the subject of letters from Mrs Kinnock and others (September 12).

The arguments advanced, I would suggest, are red herrings, all originally aired some five years ago and designed principally to serve the commercial interests of mainly one company, Fyffes, wholly owned by Fruit Importers of Ireland.

It is true that the Caribbean producers of bananas depend to a large extent on the export of the fruit; it is equally true that their production is uneconomic, and they know it and have done so for years. No industry can be guaranteed a market unless it produces viably — the UK shipbuilding and coal industries being prime

examples. Financial aid to divert from banana-growing is the answer, not a protected cotton-wool environment which perpetuates restrictions on free trade and costs the consumer more.

Licences to import into the UK and EU are not held by the Caribbean producers but by two main importers, Fyffes and JP, both of them major importers of Latin-American bananas. JP is partially owned by Dole, one of the US multinationals Mrs Kinnock complains of. Geest no longer exists as a banana company, and is now owned by Fyffes: "5 Isles" is a brand name of Fyffes, and "Fyffes" own brand could easily come from Latin America.

Let's get our facts straight and not confuse finding a solution to the islands' problems with support for monopolistic commercial interests.

Yours faithfully,
P. WEISER,
(Director),
United Banana Import Company Ltd,
36-39 Link House,
New Covent Garden Market, SW8,
September 12.

Science stereotypes

From Professor Emeritus P. B. Fellgett, FRS

Sir, The real harm done by stereotyping scientists ("The stereotypes that make scientists mad", British Association report, September 10) is that it is part of the stereotyping of science itself. Very little of what appears in the media in the name of science is in fact recognisable as science, and much of it is positively misleading.

At its most basic, science is the humbleness to recognise that human thought alone is not a reliable guide to understanding the material Universe, but needs to be corrected and guided by experience; that is to say, systematic observation and experiment.

In science, a statement is considered empty unless it is susceptible to empirical test. Since any test is nugatory unless it can in principle fail, this implies that all scientific knowledge is provisional.

Science has no dogmas and makes no claim to absolute truth; it simply offers the best available systematic description of what has so far been observed to happen. In other words, science is what has been found to work.

In another aspect, science requires great imagination it may be seen as the most abstract of art forms.

Yours faithfully,
PETER FELLGETT,
Little Brighton,
St Kew Highway, Bodmin, Cornwall,
September 10.

A-level lit crit

From Mr Colville St A. Greaves

Sir, Sharon Footman (letter, September 12) correctly points out that annotation of set texts taken into A-level literature examinations is allowed, but her suggestion that candidates can come to the examination with "complete model answers" is impractical. The questions on the set texts are not known in advance and no one could come prepared for every eventuality.

One of the many aims of the examination is to assess a candidate's personal response to the texts. Facing a question for the first time, I suggest, requires a great deal of "real thinking" on the candidate's part.

Yours faithfully,
C. GREAVES,
(Head of English),
Fairfield Grammar School,
Montpelier, Bristol,
September 14.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Over there

From Lord Wright of Richmond

Sir, Flying to Europe from London (Colonel A. J. Baker's letter, September 15) is not a new experience.

When I accompanied the late Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, on a flight from Northolt to Paris in 1975, I heard him announce, on arrival, to a surprised group of journalists: "Do you know, this is the first time I have been in Europe for three months!"

Yours sincerely,
PATRICK WRIGHT,
House of Lords,
September 15.

From Mr Ken Broad

Sir, I fear Colonel Baker may have "blown the whistle" on a very effective invitation-declining ploy.

When faced with an unwelcome social event my friend Harry has for many years excused himself with: "I'd love to come of course but I regret I am in Europe all that week."

Yours faithfully,
KEN BROAD,
Manor Court,
Church Aston, Newport, Shropshire,
September 16.

'Top 100' warriors enter the lists

From Dr Andrew Bamji

Sir, Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Lanning's list of the top 100 military leaders "of all time" is certainly controversial (reports and leading article, September 15); given the American bias, I am particularly puzzled by the omission of Sherman, whose tactics were influential on future conflicts.

However, my greatest surprise is reserved for the inclusion of Pershing, at number 41, whose Great War army fought only from July to November 1918, and that with equipment largely provided by the French. The achievement of Pétain, who does not appear at all, in redeeming the desperate situation at Verdun in 1916 was a far more significant one.

A straight swap would suit me.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW BAMJI,
58 Goddington Lane,
Orpington, Kent,
andrew_bamji@compuserve.com
September 15.

From Dr C. W. R. Long

Sir, Among the most serious omissions from Colonel Lanning's list is the name of Khalid b. al-Walid.

With Islam spreading so rapidly thirteen and a half centuries later, the general who set it on its expansionist course by leading the early Muslim armies out of Arabia to conquer Iraq and Syria — and setting the record for a march between the two — can have few rivals for influence on the world's future.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES LONG,
(Director of Islamic Studies),
Newcastle University,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU,
September 15.

From Mr Richard Graham-Taylor

Sir, I am sure there will be many omissions noted from Colonel Lanning's list. But surely none so surprising as Joshua and King David, particularly as Moshe Dayan gets a mention at 69.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD GRAHAM-TAYLOR,
1 Ravenscliffe Mews,
Head Road,
Douglas, Isle of Man,
September 15.

From Mr Nicholas A. Mostyn, QC

Sir, The Black Prince Henry? Owen Glendower? William Wallace? Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS MOSTYN, 1 Mire Court Buildings, Temple, EC4. nicholas_mostyn@link.org
September 15.

Attributing opposites

From Dr Georges S. Kaye

Sir, Your insightful and otherwise correct obituary of Professor Hans Eysenck (September 8) states that it was he who coined the terms "extroversion" and "introversion".

Extrovert and introvert describe two opposite poles of a broad psychological axis of personality profile. In this current sense the terms were introduced late in the first decade of this century by Professor Carl Gustav Jung.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGES S. KAYE,
Cromwell Hospital,
Cromwell Road, SW5,
September 8.

Island beat

From Mr David W. G. Taylor

Sir, You tell us (report, September 12) that Cail Cox, a Kent policeman, "is swapping her squad car for the traffic-free Pacific island of Pitcairn". Is this a good deal? What would my wife get for her elderly BMW?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID W. G. TAYLOR,
The Office,
Chapel House, Winstone,
Nr Cirencester, Gloucestershire,
September 12.

From Mrs Carol C. Bridgeman

Sir, During these days of impending devolution I find it slightly alarming to find a report about the tiny Pacific island of Pitcairn on one of your pages headed "Home News".

Yours faithfully,
CAROL BRIDGEMAN,
Abbot House, Stocks Green,
Castle Acre, King's Lynn, Norfolk,
September 12.

Authors' brainstorm

From Mr James Badenoch, QC

Sir, On the subject of memorable newspaper corrections (David Gernmel's letter, September 10) the one I recall most fondly, and I hope accurately, was from Beachcomber a long time ago. It went:

In my piece on the Milk Marketing Board last week the word "horses" should have read "cows" throughout.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES BADENOCH,
1 Crown Office Row,
Temple, EC4,
September 10.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 16: The Princess Royal, President of Patrons, Crime Concern, this morning presented the British Crime Prevention Awards at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, 195 Piccadilly, London W1.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon opened a Charity Street

Carnival, organised by the Belgrave Traders Association in aid of the Riding for the Disabled Association, in Elizabeth Street, London SW1.

The Princess Royal this evening attended the Starehe Endowment Fund (UK) "Aim High Appeal" Dinner at Thomas Goud, South Audley Street, London W1.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as President, Riding for the Disabled Association, will open the refurbished office now named "Lavinia Norfolk House", Kenilworth, Warwickshire, at 12.15; as President, the Princess Royal Trust for Carers will visit the Coventry Carers' Centre, 3 City Arcade, Coventry, at 1.50; and will open the new headquarters of Tenby Industries Limited, Kings Central, Great Kings Street, Newtontown, Birmingham, at 3.40.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron, the Army Families Federation, will attend the annual conference at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, Camberley, at 9.55.

The Duke of Kent will visit Land Rover, and the Central England Training and Enterprise Council, Lode Lane, Solihull, West Midlands, at 11.30.

Tamara Nuttall

The Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration for the Life of Signora Lorenza Cardil will take place at St James's, Piccadilly, on Tuesday, September 23 at 3pm.

Tea party

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster were the hosts at a tea party held yesterday at Westminster City Hall to mark the 50th anniversary of Age Concern Westminster.

Lady Pullen and Dame Simone Pendergast, chairman and vice-chairman of Age Concern Westminster, and staff, volunteers and Age Concern Westminster's clients were among those present.

Receptions

Painter-Stainers' Company
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, was received by the Master and Wardens of the Painter-Stainers' Company last night at a reception held at Painters' Hall when he formally opened the annual Painter-Stainers' Art Exhibition. During the evening Mr Ronald Maddox, President of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colour, presented the Exhibition Gold Medal, first awarded in 1860, to Mrs Emma Faulk, Masters of City Livery Companies were among the guests.

Verulam Chambers
Mr Nick Hawkins, MP, held a reception for Mr Michael Edwards, CBE, QC, Head of Verulam Chambers, and his members and their guests at the House of Commons on Monday.

Dinner

Distillers' Company
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, attended a dinner and ladies' dinner of the Distillers' Company held last night at the Mansion House. The Master, Mr Anthony W.C. Edwards, assisted by the Wardens, presided. The Lord Mayor, Mr Max Hastings and Mr Charles Minoprio also spoke. The Masters of the Vintners', Brewers', Fruiters' and Chartered Architects' Companies and their ladies were among those present.

Latest wills

Young Mary Sutton Farrow, of Slough, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £2,346,897 net.
Barbara Secker McCoy, of Tenbury, Worcestershire, left estate valued at £1,822,227 net.
Robert Henry Peters, of Torquay, Devon, left estate valued at £1,259,045 net.

Birthdays today

Professor Sir Donald Acheson, former Chief Medical Officer, HM Government, 61; Sir Desmond Fennell, former High Court Judge, 64; Mr Deryck Fox, rugby league player, 33; Mr Gwyn Francis, former Director-General, Forestry Commission, 67; Sir Richard Gaskell, former President, Law Society, 61; Professor Sir John Grimley

Evans, clinical geratologist, 61; Professor Sir John Hale, FBA, 61; Sir Desmond Fennell, former High Court Judge, 64; Mr Deryck Fox, rugby league player, 33; Mr Gwyn Francis, former Director-General, Forestry Commission, 67; Sir Richard Gaskell, former President, Law Society, 61; Professor Sir John Grimley



Autumn crocuses bring their delicate shade of pink to the Royal Horticultural Society's autumn show

Floral tribute from Diana's own lilies

BY ALAN TOOGOOD
HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Horticultural Society's Great Autumn Flower Show includes a floral tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales.

Peter J. Smith, of Ashington, West Sussex, has included in his exhibit of alstroemerias (princess lilies) a display of "Diana, Princess of Wales", a pink and cream cultivar chosen by the Princess as one of her wedding flowers. All money raised from its sale will go to the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.

Burncoose Nurseries, of Redruth, Cornwall, is often described as "an oasis in a mining wasteland". This is the theme of their exhibit, which highlights the possible closure of Cornwall's last working tin mine - Crofty mine near Redruth. Among mining artefacts and a stone Celtic cross is a profusion of seasonal trees, shrubs, bulbs and perennials punctuated with blue hydrangeas. The exhibit has been awarded a gold medal.

Another unusual exhibit at this show, which opened in Westminster yesterday, is a collection of plants used in the perfume industry, staged by the Chelsea Physic Garden, of London. "While people know that the perfume industry uses flowers to create fragrances, some may be unaware that it also relies on a huge amount of other plant material," said Sue Minter, curator of the garden. "We hope this display will give people some interesting insights into perfume production."

The exhibit includes *Acorus calamus* (sweet rush) used for woody and leather scents, *Piper nigrum* which yields an oil from its fruits valued for spicy fragrances, and *Irish geranium florentina* (iris root) whose oil gives a violet fragrance.

Philippe Lecouffe, of Vacherot & Lecouffe Orchids, Boissy Saint Leger,

France, travelled to London overnight on Le Shuttle with a collection of his own hybrid cattleyas, the most flamboyant orchids in cultivation. This is the first time he has exhibited at an RHS monthly Westminster show, although he is a supporter of the London Orchid Show. This exhibit features a new range of colours and combinations not most are seen. Particularly eye-catching are the hybrids *Brio de Valer* "Vaudeville" (pale yellow and crimson), *Yolo "Black Hawk"* (neon pink), *Veldovada "Polka"* (rich yellow and crimson), *Elizabeth Fulton* "La Tuilerie" (bronze and crimson) and *Nuance "Elegie"* (lime green).

The show is strong on autumnal flowers. A giant gold medal display of dahlias arranged according to colour by Aylett Nurseries, of London Colney, Hertfordshire, includes several new cultivars such as "Classic Al" (medium cactus, burnt orange), "Tarantula Lilac" (medium cactus, lilac), "Jamie" (small cactus, lilac) and "Kotore Jackpot" (small cactus, blood red).

The display of dahlias from Philip Tivey & Sons, of Syston, Leicestershire, has also been awarded a gold medal and includes a distinctive new cultivar, "Red Balloon", a miniature ball type with blood-red flowers.

A large display of asters, which epitomise autumn, from Rougham Hall Nurseries, of Rougham, Suffolk, includes the recently introduced *Aster novae-angliae* "Christopher Harbutt", rich purple and completely mildew-free.

Edrom Nurseries, of Colindale, London, have included one of the best white gentians in their display of mainly blue cultivars. *Gentiana "Souta"*, making its debut this autumn, is pure white and a reliable grower.

Autumn-flowering bulbs are equally prolific and include a gold-medal display of hardy cyclamen from Ashwood Nurs-

eries, of Kingswinford, West Midlands. They range from strains of the popular *Cyclamen hederifolium*, such as "Ruby Strain" (red-pink), "White Cloud" and "Silver Cloud" (pure white) to species such as *C. mirabile* (pale pink, silver-patterned foliage).

Avon Bulbs, of Mid Lambrook, Somerset, have included a colourful collection of crocuses in their bulb display. One of the best yellow cultivars is featured: *Crocus "Roxallensis"* with large spikes of rich golden-yellow flowers. It will be available next year.

Among the fruit and vegetable displays, the RHS Garden, Wisley, Surrey, has staged tomatoes and curled parsley from the current trials and which have been recommended for the Award of Garden Merit.

The display of fruits from Ken Muir, of Weeley Heath, Essex, includes the giant-fingered blackberry, "Fantasia", and minarette apple trees - columnar non-branching trees which are ideal for limited space.

Gold medals have also been awarded to Bushkian Bonsai, of Hockley, Essex (bonsai); Goldbrook Plants, of Hoxne, Suffolk (hostas); Heather and Brian Hiley, of Wallington, Surrey (ferns and ornamental grasses); Jekka's Herb Farm, of Alveston, Bristol (medicinal, culinary and aromatic herbs); Nutfield Nurseries, of South Nutfield, Surrey (echinacea and other succulents); P. W. Plants, of Kenninghall, Norfolk (hardy plants, bamboos and grasses); Southfield Nurseries, of Morton, Lincolnshire (cacti and other succulents); and Toobees Exotics, of Woking, Surrey (succulents and cacti of Africa and Madagascar).

The show, in the New and Old Horticultural Halls, Graycoat Street and Vincent Square, Westminster, is open today from 10am to 5pm.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.C. Daly and Miss L.J. Harrop
The engagement is announced between Dermot, elder son of the late Mr James Daly and of Mrs James Daly, of Braintree, Herefordshire, and Louise, elder daughter of Mr Simon and the Hon Mrs Harrop, of Bentley, Hampshire.

Mr T.H. Brassey and Miss L.E. Boardman
The engagement is announced between Hugh, only son of the Hon Thomas and Mrs Brassey, of Dunco, Northamptonshire, and Leonie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Allan Boardman, of Moree, New South Wales, Australia, where the marriage will take place next May.

Mr F.B.H. Lipworth and Miss A.J. Rosewood
The engagement is announced between Frank, younger son of Sir Sydney and Lady Lipworth, and Alexa, elder daughter of Mrs Shimon Cowan and Mr Norman Rosewood.

Mr R. Blunt and Miss L.M. Binnmore
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr John Blunt, of Castle Farm, Melbourn, Derbyshire, and Mrs Christopher Powell, of Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and Lynne, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Binnmore, of Black House, Melbourn, Derbyshire.

Mr P.G. Burium and Miss S.J. Bailey
The engagement is announced between Paul, elder son of Mr and Mrs Robert Burium, of Fulham, London, and Susan, daughter of Dr and Mrs Malcolm Bailey, of Radlett, Hertfordshire.

Mr P.N. Denison and Miss V.L.A. Wood
The engagement is announced between Peter, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Denison, of Marlow, Buckinghamshire, and Victoria, second daughter of Professor and Mrs Christopher Wood, of Friern Barnet, London.

Mr P.M.V. Grace and Miss Zs. Vilko
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of the late Dr Michael Grace, FRCS, and Mrs Philippa Grace, of Oxford, and Zsuzsanna, daughter of Mr Josef Vilko and Mrs Edit Bartok, of Szepesgyorgy, Transylvania.

Mr A.J.C. Hull and Miss B.J. Bayler
The engagement is announced between Adrian, younger son of Mr Anthony Hull, of Cambridge, and Belinda, only daughter of the late Mr Richard Bayler and of Mrs Gracia Bayler, of Healesville, Victoria, Australia.

Mr R.J. Perkins and Miss M.P. Hall
The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of Mr Martin Northcott, of Langport, Somerset, and Mrs Richard Northcott, of West Lyford, Somerset, and Michelle, daughter of Mrs Patricia Hall, of Flinton, Manchester.

Mr A.E. Northcott and Miss V.M. Acworth
The engagement is announced between Alexander, younger son of Mr Martin Northcott, of Langport, Somerset, and Mrs Richard Northcott, of West Lyford, Somerset, and Victoria, daughter of Brigadier and Mrs Robert Acworth, of Great Wishford, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Mr J.R.S. Page and Miss J.R. Proctor
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Mr D.C. Daly and Miss L.J. Harrop
The engagement is announced between Dermot, elder son of the late Mr James Daly and of Mrs James Daly, of Braintree, Herefordshire, and Louise, elder daughter of Mr Simon and the Hon Mrs Harrop, of Bentley, Hampshire.

Mr T.H. Brassey and Miss L.E. Boardman
The engagement is announced between Hugh, only son of the Hon Thomas and Mrs Brassey, of Dunco, Northamptonshire, and Leonie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Allan Boardman, of Moree, New South Wales, Australia, where the marriage will take place next May.

Mr F.B.H. Lipworth and Miss A.J. Rosewood
The engagement is announced between Frank, younger son of Sir Sydney and Lady Lipworth, and Alexa, elder daughter of Mrs Shimon Cowan and Mr Norman Rosewood.

Mr R. Blunt and Miss L.M. Binnmore
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr John Blunt, of Castle Farm, Melbourn, Derbyshire, and Mrs Christopher Powell, of Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and Lynne, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Binnmore, of Black House, Melbourn, Derbyshire.

Mr P.G. Burium and Miss S.J. Bailey
The engagement is announced between Paul, elder son of Mr and Mrs Robert Burium, of Fulham, London, and Susan, daughter of Dr and Mrs Malcolm Bailey, of Radlett, Hertfordshire.

Mr P.N. Denison and Miss V.L.A. Wood
The engagement is announced between Peter, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Denison, of Marlow, Buckinghamshire, and Victoria, second daughter of Professor and Mrs Christopher Wood, of Friern Barnet, London.

Mr P.M.V. Grace and Miss Zs. Vilko
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of the late Dr Michael Grace, FRCS, and Mrs Philippa Grace, of Oxford, and Zsuzsanna, daughter of Mr Josef Vilko and Mrs Edit Bartok, of Szepesgyorgy, Transylvania.

Mr A.J.C. Hull and Miss B.J. Bayler
The engagement is announced between Adrian, younger son of Mr Anthony Hull, of Cambridge, and Belinda, only daughter of the late Mr Richard Bayler and of Mrs Gracia Bayler, of Healesville, Victoria, Australia.

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Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Francisco de Quevedo y Villegas, poet, Madrid, 1580; Tobias Rustat, Yeoman of the Robes to Charles II, baptised, Leicester, 1608; Samuel Prout, watercolour painter, Plymouth, 1783; William Carlos Williams, poet, Rutherford, New Jersey, 1893; Sir Francis Chichester, yachtsman, Barnstaple, 1901; Sir Frederick Ashton, ballet dancer and choreographer, Guayaquil, Ecuador, 1906; Maurine Connelly (Little Mo), tennis champion, San Diego, 1934.

DEATHS: Tobias Rustat, novelist, Leighton, 1771; Alfred de Vigny, poet, Paris, 1863; Charles Robert Cockerell, architect, London, 1803; Walter Savage Landor, writer, Florence, 1864; William Henry Fox Talbot, pioneer of photography, Lacock Abbey, Wiltshire, 1877; Eugene-Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc, architect, Lausanne, 1879; Count Folke Bernadotte, UN mediator, assassinated, Jerusalem, 1948; Ruth Benedict, anthropologist, New York, 1948; Dame Lilian Braithwaite, actress, London, 1948.

Laura Ashley, designer, Coventry, 1935; Pat Phoenix, actress, Cheshire, 1936. The Constitution of the United States was signed, 1787. The Commonwealth of Australia was proclaimed as a federal union of six colonies, 1901. British Forces landed by air at Arnhem, Holland, 1944.

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DEATHS

ABEL SMITH - On 15th September 1997, Mr. Smith, aged 71, died peacefully at home.

BOWSER-GROSVYCE - On September 15th at Queen Charlotte's, Mr. Bowser-Grosvyce, aged 85, died peacefully at home.

EDWARDS - On September 16th, to Sarah (née Jenkins), Mr. Edwards, aged 85, died peacefully at home.

HOLLIS - On September 15th, to Linda (née Hollis), Mr. Hollis, aged 85, died peacefully at home.

KIRKMAN - On 15th September 1997, to Julia (née Charlesworth), Mr. Kirkman, aged 85, died peacefully at home.

LEWIS - A "wee slipper" for Vanessa (née Lewis), Mr. Lewis, aged 85, died peacefully at home.

MARRAS - On September 14th at the Portland Hospital, to Nicola and Anthony, a son, Alexander, aged 1, died peacefully at home.

RIDDELL-WEBSTER - On September 14th, to Sarah (née Fildes) and Mike, a son, Sam, a brother for Thomas.

ROULETTE - On September 15th, to Annabelle (née Charles) and Stephen, a daughter, Jella, aged 1, died peacefully at home.

SCHWAB - On 15th August in Stamford, Connecticut, to Jenny (née McGonigle), Mr. Schwab, aged 85, died peacefully at home.

WARD - On 16th September, to Pamela (née Wiles) and Andrew, twins sons, Alec and Christopher, and Connor John.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
PAMELA GOULD - Anne and family would like to thank everyone who sent cards and letters at this sad time and for all their support. Thank you also to all who attended the funeral. Special thanks to all who have kindly sent donations to the Methodist Town Church Council and League of Friends of Ashburton Hospital.

CAINE - John, husband of Marie, died peacefully at home on September 15th, aged 85.

ALFRED - Edmund (D) John Butler, 85, died peacefully at home on September 14th, aged 85.

CHANDLER - Margaret (née Green), 85, died peacefully at home on September 14th, aged 85.

CHELSOM - On September 15th, to Josephine (née Green), Mrs. Chelsom, aged 85, died peacefully at home.

ANDERSON - On 15th September peacefully at home, Mr. Anderson, aged 85, died peacefully at home.

ARCHER - Suddenly died peacefully at his home in late 1997, Mr. Archer, aged 85, died peacefully at home.

ANDER - Kathleen (née Smith), 85, died peacefully at home on September 15th, aged 85.

COOPER - Mary, 90, died peacefully at home on September 15th, aged 90.

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COOK - On 15th September 1997, suddenly at home, Francis John Cook, aged 85, died peacefully at home.

HAYLOCK - Patricia Haylock, died suddenly at her home on Monday 15th September 1997, aged 85.

PHILLIPS - Lindsay on 14th September 1997, peacefully at home, aged 85.

PRECOPE - Marie Eugenia (Korytowska) daughter of the late Admiral Karol Korytowski, died peacefully at home on September 15th, aged 75.

SCHEWIER - Pat (née Rank) of Tangmere, Sussex, on September 14th peacefully at home, aged 85.

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OBITUARIES

JANET LEACH

Janet Leach, potter, died in St Ives on September 12 aged 79. She was born in Texas on March 15, 1918.

Although she was married to Bernard Leach, founding father of the 20th-century studio pottery movement and perhaps the most influential potter of modern times, Janet Leach never allowed herself to be overshadowed by her husband. For many years she ran his business, the Leach Pottery in St Ives, supervising production, developing new designs, and marketing the wares; but she was also a notable potter on her own account.

While both she and Bernard Leach aimed to fuse European modernism with the traditional arts of Japan, their styles and approaches were quite distinct. Bold and often monumental, spontaneous yet refined, distinguished by an innovative use of glaze, Janet Leach's pots were the creative expression of a unique and powerful personality. Janet Leach was born in Grand Saline, Texas; her parents' families had travelled there by wagon train across the United States. In her early years she wanted to be a sculptor, and used to whittle and carve bits of wood and stone with knives confiscated from criminals by her policeman grandfather.

She briefly attended an art school in Dallas, before moving while still in her teens to New York to continue her art studies. She worked as a sculptor's assistant on the Federal Arts Project and with the sculptor Robert Cronbach on architectural commissions. During the war she served as a welder on warships in the States Island shipyards, and was married for a while to Joe Turino, a fellow shipyard worker.

Though she was ever interested in materials, it was not



until after the war that she became so fascinated by "clay and fire" that she studied ceramics, first at the Inwood Pottery just outside New York and later at Alfred University. It was at this time that she first came across a copy of Bernard Leach's inspirational volume *A Potter's Book* (1940). She did some teaching at Rockland State Hospital, a mental institution in New York State, and in 1947 she moved to Threelod Farm in Spring Valley, a community built on the anthroposophical principles of Rudolf Steiner. There she set up her own pottery; the Steiner community's threefold concern with head, heart and hand found expression in the triangular

mark with which she ever stamped her pots.

It was in 1952 at Black Mountain College, North Carolina, that she first met Bernard Leach, then on a lecture tour of America accompanied by the potter Shoji Hamada and the writer Soetsu Yanagi. It was a meeting which changed her life, though it was Hamada, rather than her future husband, who made the greater impression on her at the time. She found herself fascinated by the philosophy and techniques of Japanese pottery. Subsequently, she requested and received permission to study pottery in Japan; she was, in fact, the first Western woman to do so.

During the two years she spent in the country she had the constant advice and help of Hamada. But as well as working with him, she travelled widely. She met many of Japan's master potters and visited its rural potteries, in particular the traditional family pottery of Tanso Ichino in the mountain village of Tamba, where Hamada himself had studied. She worked there for a time, overcoming any opposition to the idea of a woman pursuing what was by tradition a male occupation in Japan. She always reckoned that it was only in Japan that she started to make "really decent pots". She was later to have a Japanese wheel and kiln built

for her in St Ives, and her work would frequently reinterpret traditional Japanese forms, such as those associated with the tea ceremony.

Bernard Leach had joined her on some of her travels in Japan, and their friendship had gradually deepened. In 1956 she followed him back to Britain, but she arrived at the Leach Pottery in St Ives in Cornwall not (she was always eager to point out) as a student of Leach's, but as a potter in her own right. "I had my own ideas. I came to marry him."

Bernard Leach was 30 years older than she was, and she was to be his third wife. Their original plan was for them both to move to Japan, leaving the established Leach Pottery

in the hands of Bernard's son David; David's decision to set up on his own forced them to abandon that idea.

Despite having no experience of running a comparable operation, Janet Leach took over the management of the Leach Pottery. Direct, outspoken and energetic, she made it work, and was accepted in the close community of St Ives, where for forty years she was a familiar figure in her stoneware hat.

At the same time she continued with her own work. Drawing freely on Japanese forms and techniques, she developed a distinctive style that combined wheel-throwing with hand-building, producing simple yet irregular shapes, and using runny poured glazes to dramatic decorative effect. She exhibited her pottery all over the world, and had the distinction of a number of solo shows in Japan, where she was perhaps better appreciated than she was in Britain.

Janet's pots show no direct influence from mine," Bernard Leach wrote, more or less approvingly. The relationship of two such determined and creative individuals was not always easy. They were often critical of each other's work, and Janet Leach was unable to share the Buddhist faith that became an increasingly important part of her husband's life. But they remained united by their interest in Japan, and their mutual respect endured until Bernard Leach's death in 1979.

Janet Leach continued to work almost to the end of her life, though her health deteriorated badly in her later years: once she could no longer operate the wheel, she carried on making pots by hand. She was unduly modest in summing up her lifelong dedication to her art: "I'm not a mother, not a gardener. I don't knit, and I'm lousy around the house. So I guess I have the time, and I just make pots."

RONALD HURST

Ronald Hurst, aviation expert and historian, died on August 23 aged 75. He was born in Manchester on August 20, 1922.



THE first connection Ronald Hurst had with aviation was as a special German-speaking operator with the highly secret "Airborne Cigar" operations of Bomber Command's 101 Squadron, in 1943-44. Equipment had been developed to counter the German *Zahme* and *Wilde Sau* systems, which directed fighter pilots orbiting a radio beacon. The Airborne Cigar enabled Allied bombers to intercept and overfly the German instructions, which were usually given verbally.

Hurst completed a full tour on this dangerous operation, during which 101 Squadron had the unenviable record of flying the largest number of sorties in what later became known as the Battle of Berlin. After a large number of casualties, he also volunteered for a second tour.

Ronald Hurst had gone from Manchester Grammar School into the RAF, and much of the rest of his life was to be concerned with aviation. After involvement in a number of aviation design projects and a period in business journalism, Hurst moved to civil aviation's international relations and later founded and edited the *Commonwealth Air Transport Review*.

While in this job, he became disturbed by the frequency of "pilot error" verdicts after air disasters. His investigations showed that in many instances pilot error was the last in a series of mistakes. He summed up the situation sarcastically: "The pilot usually arrives at the scene of the accident first, through the windscreen and with £12 million of aircraft strapped to his bottom."

The result of his research was the acclaimed book *Pilot Error* (1976), which helped to change the international

thinking in accident investigations.

A second aviation book, stemming from his pioneering studies of human factors in air operations, was *Zagreb One Four* (1982), an investigation into what had been the world's worst mid-air collision. He was also editor of the *Granada Aviation Library*.

At 72 he was accepted by St Cross College, Oxford, to undertake research for a doctoral thesis about an influential figure in early British aviation, Charles Grey, founder of the magazine *The Aeroplane*. The work was almost completed when he became ill.

Ronald Hurst's greatest love was history. His last book, *The Golden Rock: An Episode of the American War of Independence*, investigates an almost unknown incident and showed the British heroes Admiral Rodney and General John Vaughan to have been unprincipled plunderers.

Ronald Hurst was an outstanding and ingenious researcher, a fluent writer with a personality and sense of humour which charmed all those who came into contact with him, even when they held diametrically opposing views. His many friends and admirers in the aviation industry will mourn the passing of one of its major analysts.

He is survived by his wife and by three children.

JEAN POPEREN

Jean Popperen, former deputy leader of the French Socialist Party, died in Paris on August 23 aged 72. He was born in Angers on January 9, 1925.

A BRILLIANT but dogmatic politician, Jean Popperen was at the heart of the campaigns and the fierce internal battles of the French Left over a period of fifty years. He never had blood on his hands, for he was a humorous man behind an austere look accentuated by rimless glasses. But in some ways he was the modern "Incorruptible", the name given to the man who always fascinated him — Robespierre, a selection of whose works he edited in three volumes.

Popperen was a lifelong opponent of *déviationsnisme* from what he saw as a united French Left of Socialists, Communists and others. Even at the end of his life he was still fighting rearguard battles against the market economy and globalisation.

He was a one-time militant Communist who left the party in disgust in 1958 and who, step by reluctant step, came to support François Mitterrand and, more recently, Lionel Jospin, France's current Prime Minister.

Popperen was one of the most skilled dialecticians thrown up by the French Left since the war. He was a brilliant orator with a vast knowledge of history who fought most of his battles, generally losing ones.

at party congresses. With him, the French Socialists have lost one of their last great *éléphants* — the French equivalent of political warhorses.

Jean Maurice Popperen was born into a left-wing family in Angers. His father, a school teacher, was a self-proclaimed "anarchist trade unionist". He was a top history student at the Lycée Louis-le-Grand in Paris, and in April 1944, before the Liberation, he distributed Communist tracts. By 1947 he was secretary of Les Etudiants Communistes and later he was sent by the party to Bucharest for a year's course at the Kominform college. His brother rose to become a member of the party's politburo.

The Berlin workers' revolt of



1953 and the Hungarian uprising in 1956 began to weaken his faith. The French party, fearing *fractionnisme* on his part, had him watched. But it was a local issue — the party's

tame response to the return of General de Gaulle — that led Popperen and 48 other leading intellectuals to slam the door, claiming they had been cured for ever of communism.

This was not quite true, for Popperen was an active supporter of the Union de la Gauche between Socialists and Communists, which led to the participation of Communists in the first Mitterrand Government, after 1981, and their renewed presence in government today.

Popperen had moved towards Mitterrand after the latter consolidated his hold over the French Left with his strong showing against de Gaulle in the 1965 presidential election. Popperen had forged links with Michel Rocard's small Parti Socialiste Unifié. The relationship of Popperen and the future Prime Minister says much about Popperen's appeal to his fellows.

Rocard felt obliged to expel him from Unified Socialists, but 28 years later he appointed Popperen to his Government, and that despite Popperen's accusing him publicly of being "Rocard d'Esting", a play on the name of the former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing which implied a move to the right. Popperen also survived voting against Mitterrand at the important Socialist Congress of 1971, which saw the emergence of a more united party and began its long march to power a decade later.

Though never a member of Mitterrand's inner circle, Popperen was nevertheless the party's propaganda chief and electoral specialist in the 1970s.

He was elected a deputy in 1973 for the Rhône department, a post he held until 1988, when Rocard and Edith Cresson each appointed him Minister in charge of Relations

with Parliament in their respective Governments.

After the Socialist landslide in 1981, Popperen was named deputy leader under Jospin, then the party's general secretary. The two men were never close. Jospin did not like Popperen's individualism, while Popperen claimed that the future leader of the party was flirting with the hated centre.

Popperen believed in an old-fashioned left-wing union of the workers, and in the primacy of state schools over Roman Catholic, although, like everyone, he was staggered when the private school lobby put a million protesters onto the Paris streets in 1984.

He was never happier than when pressing home his views at congresses in a heated atmosphere of internal party strife. Jospin wanted an end to the *courants* (or splinter groups) which had plagued the party, and strove for more unified backing. He won the battle of the *courants*, for the party now allows only what Jospin calls different sensibilities. Yet the Communists are back in government, in a new version of the old left-wing unity.

When the Socialists lost parliamentary power in 1993, Popperen was able to say it was because inequality reigned in the land, and the last of his political books was entitled *Socialists: The Final Fall*. Yet he was wrong. In January this year, he suffered a stroke and was not able to savour the Socialist return to power, which terminated this time by Jospin.

Popperen had stood down from Parliament in 1993, a year after losing his ministerial post, but had continued to be active on the fringes, founding *Nouveau Monde 92*, a movement opposed to globalisation. He is survived by his wife, Nathalie.

LEO JAFFE

Leo Jaffe, former chairman of Columbia Pictures, died on August 20 aged 88. He was born in New York City on April 23, 1909.

IN THE Hollywood of Leo Jaffe's youth, a man's word was his bond, and he remained the embodiment of integrity during a 50-year career at Columbia Pictures which saw seismic shifts in the way movie deals are conceived and cemented.

A respected dealmaker and shrewd businessman, Jaffe had not expected to work in the film industry, which in his youth was still emerging from adolescence; but while studying business administration at New York University he took a summer job in the auditing department at Columbia and was bitten by the celluloid bug. He never looked back.

Jaffe did not wait to finish his degree before joining the ranks of businessmen drawn to the burgeoning industry, which was awash with money. He joined the studio's auditing department in 1930, rising through the ranks to be treasurer in 1939, vice-president in 1967 and chairman in 1973.

During his time, the studio grew from a struggling independent operation to a global player. As chairman, Jaffe saw it as his task to ensure good relations with creative talent. Known first and foremost as a businessman, he confidently left decisions pertaining to scripts and casting to others. He preferred to plan and execute the deal.

During his eight-year chairmanship, Jaffe was largely responsible for shepherding to the studio an array of talented directors and producers, who were then given their creative freedom. They included Ray Stark (*Funny Girl*, *The Way*

We Were), Sam Spiegel (*On the Waterfront*, *Lawrence of Arabia*), Otto Preminger (*Anatomy of a Murder*), Richard Brooks (*Lord Jim*, *In Cold Blood*), Stanley Kramer (*The Caine Mutiny*) and Steven Spielberg (*Close Encounters of the Third Kind*). It was Jaffe who released the critically acclaimed *Kramer vs. Kramer*, *Midnight Express* and *Taxi Driver*.

The producer Ray Stark recalled that Jaffe was an aggressive competitor when chasing projects for Columbia, and fought hard when the script of *Funny Girl* came across his desk. When Stark signalled that he wanted to cast an unknown called Barbra Streisand in the lead, Jaffe backed him over objections from fellow executives, who wanted a star name.

This loyalty to talent served both Jaffe and his films exceedingly well. Talented people flocked to work under him, confident of his support for their sometimes controversial decisions.

Yet Columbia Pictures was not immune to scandal. Jaffe was at the helm in 1977 when the studio was rocked by the revelation that the then president, David Begelman, had forged checks to embezzle \$61,000 from the company. The studio initially allowed Begelman to retain his job, but later it had to fire him.

Jaffe was honoured many times by his peers, winning the Motion Picture Pioneer of the Year in 1972 and the Jean Hersholt Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in 1979. After retirement he chaired the motion picture and television division of the US Information Agency for seven years.

He is survived by his third wife, Anita, three sons and two daughters.

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SULTAN ABDUL HAMID.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

THERAPIA, Sept 6.

I find that I telegraphed by pure inadvertence that Mrs. Layard was the first European lady with whom a Sultan had sat down to dinner at his own table. What I should have said was that Mrs. Layard is the first lady, not being of Royal rank, to whom this compliment has been paid. It has, in fact, been paid to at least two other "European ladies," so that my telegram was not strictly correct. But then they were ladies, and something more, the one being Empress of the French, the other Princess of Wales, who as such could not only treat even with a Sultan on equal terms, but were also receiving the hospitality they had already shown him at their own Courts.

The dinner here was served in the French style, and is said to have been a very pleasant one, the Sultan playing the host to perfection. Wine was put upon the table for the guests, but the Sultan only drank sherbet. He proposed the health of the Queen of England, expressing his gratitude for the kind interest which Her Majesty had shown in the Turkish wounded by sending bandages to be distributed by Mrs. Layard among the sufferers. That the Sultan should have sat down at the

ON THIS DAY

September 17, 1877

Mrs Layard, wife of Henry Layard, diplomat, archaeologist, and politician, has her niche in history, apparently being the first lady, not of royal rank, to dine with the Sultan Abdul Hamid at his own table.

same table with the wife of Her Britannic Majesty's Representative at Constantinople is here considered something so startlingly unusual as to have excited more attention than would be bestowed on a Turkish victory or defeat. I was severely cross-examined this afternoon as to whether Mrs. Layard had dined in the "Haremlyk" or the "Selamlyk" by an English lady long resident in this country, who seemed to find it difficult to believe that the Sultan could possibly entertain a lady in the "Selamlyk." Let me explain that by "Haremlyk" is meant the portion of a Turkish house set apart for the women, and by "Selamlyk" that for the men. No Turk would

ever think of allowing a lady of his own household to come into the "Selamlyk," and it is only very recently that the more advanced and daring Radicals have ventured to dine occasionally with their wives in the harem. In a Turkish house, in fact, there are always two dinners served, one for the husband and his guests, who, in the true spirit of Turkish hospitality, sit down to table as a matter of course when they happen to be in the house at the dinner hour, and another for the wife and her female friends, who could no more join the male dinner party in the "Selamlyk" than the husband's friends could join the ladies in the harem, the threshold of which even the wife's brother cannot cross.

In spite, however, of all these cogent *a priori* reasons to prove the impossibility of so monstrous a departure from Mussulman custom it nevertheless is a matter of fact that Mrs. Layard did dine in the "Selamlyk." It is doubtless the most striking, but by no means the first, proof that the present Sultan has given of his desire to emancipate himself from the tradition and prejudices of the Ottoman court. It may make English readers smile, but there it is noted as a matter of grave importance, that His Imperial Majesty offers cigarettes to his favoured guests with his own hand from his own case...

The sum of the parts

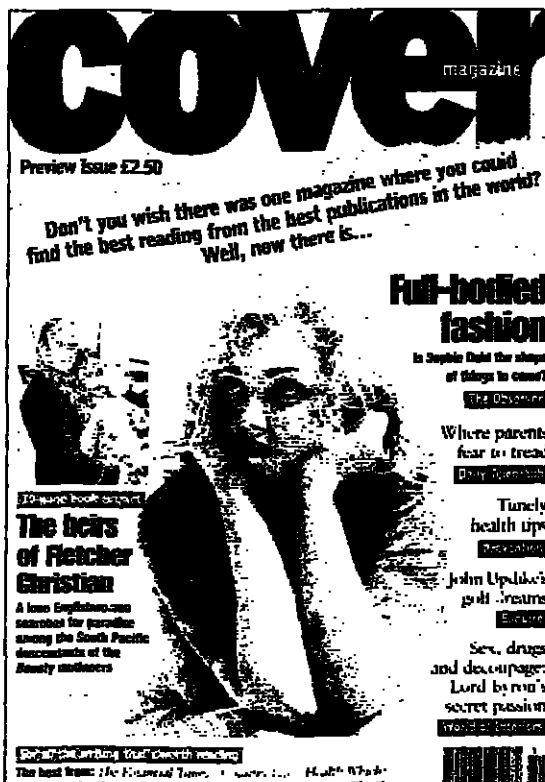
One-stop 'reading shops' could prove to be a boon for busy people, says Morag Preston

For many people, ploughing through the acres of newspaper in their daily papers, is at best daunting, at worst impossible. For those who rarely make it to the features pages, help is at hand. *Cover*, a latter-day *Reader's Digest* will go on sale for the first time tomorrow. It aims to bring together the best of features and photographs from newspapers and glossies around the world. Twelve researchers, mostly freelance journalists, three of them based overseas, will select from 150 international publications. The co-editors, Danny Danziger and Robert Lacey, will sift through their choices and enter the best for publication.

"Cover goes beyond what any one daily paper can do, because of the wide range of its material," says Mr Danziger. "It seemed a pity that there are so many exciting features, but readers have little opportunity to read them." The co-editors' aim is to enhance what has already been published, and possibly ignored. Longer features, which cost them £350 on average, will be accompanied by beautifully shot pictures, priced at around £100 each.

In an age when news is on tap 24 hours a day, Mr Danziger recognises the inherent contradiction in what he is trying to do: to save people time, yet encourage them to read more. The idea of a one-stop reading shop could be the answer to newspaper lovers' prayers. The American concept of a news magazine which, unlike a digest, includes freshly commissioned material, is catching on in Britain, despite the failure of *Now*, launched by Sir James Goldsmith in 1979, and folding in 1981 with a loss of £12 million. The growth of publications such as *Time* (whose circulation has shot up 20 per cent, to 625,000, in the past ten years) and *Newsweek* (whose circulation in the UK has increased by 23 per cent, to 306,264, over the same period) is proof that receiving your reading matter in one manageable package appeals.

Circulation of *Time* and *Newsweek* in the US is four million and 3.2 million respectively. A news magazine has not yet been launched in the UK, and the gap is rapidly being filled by publications such as *Time*



Cover and *The Week*: Time's success shows that getting all your reading matter in one package holds appeal



which produce issues tailor-made for a European market. Circulation of *The Guardian Weekly*, the digest that syndicates articles from international publications, including *Le Monde* and *The Washington Post*, has risen 49 per cent, to 110,000, in the past ten years. *Reader's Digest*, with a circulation of more than 1.6 million, is the most successful compilation magazine. "While we do not intend to rival this circulation in quantity, we do anticipate a higher mix of AB readers, and a generally younger audience," says Mr Danziger. "Reader's Digest is seen as old-fashioned, aimed at a middle-aged, middle-class market. Our target circulation includes this group, but the style of our magazine will appeal to the higher-profile sections of this segment [ie the *Vanity Fair* reader], as well as the average *Reader's Digest* reader."

Mr Danziger must know what he is up against. From *The Spectator* to *Punch*, there is no shortage of reading matter aimed at a well-read, middle-class British market. But that is precisely Mr Danziger's point. His readers are "busy people. They read two or three magazines already. They go on action holidays rather than sit

in the sun. They are the businessman on a flight to New York who reads *The Economist* for business and *Cover* for pleasure — to keep in touch". Jon Connell used the same argument when he launched *The Week*. In 1995, the former Deputy Editor of *The Sunday Telegraph* published the first copy of the weekly news digest that now has a circulation of 25,000. "People are busier either at work or at home than they used to be. At the same time, newspapers are getting bigger and bigger. There are so many newspapers, with so many different views, we have brought them all together," Unlike *Cover*, which will cost £2.50, Mr Connell's weekly digest focuses on news and current affairs. It takes what Mr Connell deems the best bits from the week's papers in a witty and concise way. He says: "Rather than add to the swelling number of columnists, we offer a rounder view. News magazines are themselves full of long, opinionated pieces. They have never come off here. There is too much duplication between what they do and what newspapers do." Condensing views from the world's press into snippets also means he avoids strict copyright laws.

For some people, one drawback is the time delay. *The Week*, which costs £1.50, goes to press on Wednesdays and comes out on Fridays; by then some of the news is ten days old. So, how does *The Week* survive in the face of 24-hour news? "Most people don't travel around with computers and TVs on their laps. People are still attached to ink on paper. Most news is fairly dull, what's interesting is what people have to say. *The Week* isn't there just to bring you the news." There is a gap of two weeks between the time *Cover* goes to press and the day it hits the streets. It must be one of the few publications bold enough to carry a two-year-old restaurant review in its first issue. "If something is interesting, it doesn't matter how old it is," says Mr Danziger, adding that he will occasionally get a writer to update a piece. But what if someone read the piece two years ago? "If people see one or two articles they have read before, they'll think, hey, these guys are on my wavelength. Remember, there will be 120 separate stories in an edition," Mr Connell finds *Cover* "an interesting idea". But he sees obstacles ahead for the magazine, which will go on sale through subscription and WH Smith stores in France, Holland and Belgium. "The problem is one of selection. Some people might want to read a longer piece on France, others might not."

Readers go on action holidays rather than sit in the sun

PAPER ROUND
Brian MacArthur



Code of the humbugs

ON THE Monday after the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, the *Daily Mail* reported that its proprietor, Lord Rothermere, had ordered that his papers should no longer publish pictures by paparazzi. "Mail leads the way in banning paparazzi pictures", its headline announced. Outraged, Charles Moore, Editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, responded next day in a long leading article attacking Lord Rothermere and Editor-in-Chief Sir David English (also chairman of the Press Complaints Commission's Code of Practice Committee). The headline was contemptible, he said. *The Mail* had been among the leaders of the pack in hunting the Princess. Within days, the quarrel had escalated into the biggest brawl in Fleet Street in living memory.

Even though the issue at stake is deeply serious, there has been a high degree of entertainment for other journalists in the increasingly vicious spat. On Friday, the *Mail* quoted unidentified "industry observers" as being concerned that the *Telegraph* was obsessed by the Church and "arcane constitutional questions"; another "media analyst" described Moore as a dilettante more concerned with venting his spleen than editing his newspaper. To have Sir David as chairman of the Code of Practice Committee, replied Conrad Black, chairman of the *Telegraph*, was like appointing Al Capone to investigate crime in 1920s Chicago.

On Monday Paul Dacre, Editor of the *Daily Mail*, answered back in *The Guardian* by telling Moore that, after the dreaded paparazzi, the Princess, whom he had come to know and like (since the *Mail* was the paper she and her friends read) most disliked him and his paper. Yesterday Black responded with an unprecedentedly savage attack on a national newspaper editor by a rival proprietor, accusing the *Mail* of "moral bankruptcy". Sir David, he added, was guilty of "shameful myth-making" and uttering "impertinent lies" about the *Telegraph*. Was he a suitable chairman of the PCC's Code of Conduct Committee? "The question is not rhetorical, although the answer is obvious. He should resign or resign."

It will be interesting when the committee meets in London today. Among the 11 national and regional editors sitting down with Sir David will be Moore. Another will be Bridget Rowe, whose *Sunday Mirror* bought the paparazzi pictures, published three weeks before the Princess's death, which first showed the seriousness of her liaison with Dodi Fayed. The same pictures were published the next day in the *Daily Mail* and *The Sun*.

On both sides there have been palpable hits — for Dacre his justified statement that the Princess

often collaborated with journalists. Equally, Moore's accusation that the *Mail* claimed higher ground than *The Sun* and *The Mirror* but often used the same tactics has wounded the *Mail*. Study, for instance, the *Daily Mail's* front page in the six days before the Princess's death: Monday: Diana and Dodi: Amazing New Pictures (from paparazzi). Tuesday: Charles and the Indian "Rasputin". Wednesday: Lynda Lee-Potter — Why Diana is Such a Poor Mother to Her Boys. Thursday: Diana's Fury At "Stitch-Up". Friday: Diana and Dodi, on a jet ski made for two (paparazzi pictures).

As both Dacre and Sir David claim, the *Daily Mail* is a very successful newspaper, but it must beware humbug and hubris. Speak as you find, they say. So I do, from personal experience. When the *Daily Mail* wants to buy a book for serialisation, it seems to be that it has been grievously wronged if any other paper wins the contest — and all too often works on spurious, debasing standards of editorial conduct.

Within the past few weeks, an author whose book is to be serialised by *The Times* was approached for information about his family background by a person who said he was a friend of a relative. That relative had been dead for ten months. The telephone number he left was answered at the *Daily Mail*.

Remember Dunblane? A friend's wife is headteacher of a London primary school. One day last summer a woman appeared in the playground. Assuming she was a parent, she was escorted to the office where she said she needed to speak to the head. Asked if it was about her children, she answered: "Sort of." She explained that she wanted to talk about some of the families. Only when challenged and asked if she was a reporter did she show her press card and reveal that she wanted the names of three families of lone parents living on benefit — details obviously confidential to the school and should not even have been asked for. The woman was from the *Daily Mail*.

ONE LEGACY of the Princess death will certainly be a moratorium on paparazzi pictures. But, as Moore argues, it was not only the princess who was harassed by the tabloids. Clause 7 (1) of the Code of Practice, agreed by all editors, says: "Journalists should not generally obtain or seek to obtain information or pictures through misrepresentation or subterfuge." Editors will demonstrate sincerity in their repentance about the hounding of Diana or their aspirations to raise standards of conduct only when schools are not invaded and spotters prepared by breaking the Code of Practice.

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John Humphrys interviewing Paddy Ashdown on *Today*: some fear such programmes will lose their distinctiveness if no one person is in charge

BBC cuts cause dismay

BBC news journalists were last night reacting with disbelief to the decision by the BBC management to abolish almost immediately the posts of editor and deputy editor of all BBC news programmes — radio and television.

The decision means that within two weeks such venerable posts as the editorship of the *Today* programme on Radio 4, this year celebrating its 40th anniversary, and of *Newsnight* will lapse. Instead, five executive editors, supported by associate editors, will be appointed who will have responsibility over entire blocks of news programming, radio as well as television, around the clock.

For instance, *Today*, *The World at One PM*, *The World This Weekend*, *The World Tonight* and Radio 1 news programmes will all be under the control of a single executive editor. Journalists fear they in turn will be scheduled by rota to

Journalists are worried that the abolition of the senior posts could lead to a 'dumbing down' of news output, says Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

work on a wide range of different programmes.

The reorganisation will be seen as the latest stage in the "Britan" revolution at the BBC — the programme of change designed by John Birt, the BBC Director-General, to modernise the corporation.

Partly because of pressure on the BBC licence fee, which only just keeps in line with inflation, and partly because of the costs of launching new digital television channels, including a 24-hour news station for the UK, there has been pressure to cut costs. Programme executives have been asked to suggest how savings of up to 30 per cent over five years can be made. The 24-hour television news service alone will cost around £30 million to set up and will have

running costs of around £12 million a year, even though it will have very few viewers in the early days until digital "black boxes" become widely available.

The ending of the existing programme production structure is seen by BBC management as the best way to save money while at the same time safeguarding programme quality and making the best of new technology. In a letter to all BBC News staff Richard Clemmow, head of news programmes, said that the plans have been drawn up "to help us maintain the high quality of our programmes on TV and radio despite reduced budgets by making the most of the opportunities presented by co-siting and new technology".

The opponents of the scheme will argue that some of the distinctiveness of individual programmes will be lost — particularly on programmes such as *Today*, *Newsnight* and *The World Tonight* — if no one person is clearly in charge. The editor of *Today*, for example, is in a powerful position to generate his own stories that are quite distinct from the obvious breaking news stories and events.

The fear among journalists is that there will be at the very least a homogenising effect, if not an actual "dumbing down", of BBC news output so that all BBC news programmes would begin to look and sound very similar. Some suspect that Mr Birt's agenda may indeed be to break up the small baronies that individual editors can create, and to turn the BBC into a more focused news machine that can

compete more effectively internationally with CNN, the Atlanta-based 24-hour television news group. By using journalists more interchangeably between different news programmes, they also fear there could be a loss of specialist expertise and knowledge.

The row mirrors the controversy stirred up last year, when the BBC announced that World Service news programmes in English would in future be produced by the BBC News division under contract, and that the journalists involved would be physically separated from the specialists who produce the foreign-language programmes. The plans were modified after a vigorous campaign by World Service journalists and the intervention of the Foreign Office.

Yesterday's announcement could stir up a similar controversy, with several programme editors apparently threatening to resign yesterday rather than having to pitch for one of the executive editor posts.

Digital broadcasting plans could backfire

Is this the end of TV as we know it?

Behind closed doors the Government is seriously contemplating a decision that could change the nature of television and that Sir Humphrey, the star of *Yes Minister*, would find more than a touch "courageous".

In the interests of launching a new digital television industry and selling off some very lucrative broadcasting frequencies to the highest bidder, the Culture, Media and Sport Department, almost certainly aided and abetted by the Department of Trade and Industry, would dearly like to set a date for the end of analogue broadcasting.

Stripped of technical jargon this simply means that if you want to continue watching television beyond any cut-off date you will have to buy either a new set or a black box to handle digital pictures.

In return, of course, viewers would be able to receive at least 40 news television channels without needing a satellite dish or cable connection. Some channels could even be seen without any additional charge such as a 24-hour television news service from the BBC and ITV2. Viewers would have

to pay extra for other subscription channels from the BBC and BSkyB, the satellite television venture. You also get interference-free television, wide-screen transmission and better sound.

Nera, the communications consultants, are already assessing for the Government the cost and feasibility of ending analogue broadcasts in five, ten or 15 years. A 15-year cut-off date is not really such an onerous target. A five-year deadline, however, is so positively courageous that it would make Sir Humphrey's head spin. The only way to do it would be to auction the frequencies occupied by channels such as BBC1 and ITV and use part of the proceeds to buy everyone a digital box.

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, would be wise to be cautious. Voters do not like politicians interfering with their television service — still the largest leisure pursuit in the UK. Hundreds of thousands of people being coerced into buying a new television set on the eve of a general election could have unimaginable political consequences.

Which leaves ten years as an apparently sensible compromise. After all, in America, the Federal Communications Commission has set just such a deadline. On December 31, 2006, the networks have to vacate their existing frequencies and move to digital. Ex-

cept that Mr Smith should note that Congress has already driven a coach and horses through the plan and inserted all sorts of caveats and reviews, which almost guarantee that broadcasters can postpone the evil day.

The Heritage Secretary in the previous Government, Virginia Bottomley, who could be very stubborn in trying to get her own way, decided to duck the issue and review the situation in five years, or when half the population is equipped to receive digital pictures, whichever arrives first.

The transition could, of course, be left to the market, as the Labour Government has done in so many other areas. But even here there are problems. More than three million new television sets are bought in the UK each year and it would seem the simplest thing to require that all new sets contain the necessary chips.

Then in no time at all, the 22 million television homes would be suitably equipped and the revolution would be complete.

Unfortunately there is little hope for Mr Smith. These days television sets last for ever and old sets in decent working order inhabit kitchens, bedrooms and attics. Even if viewers were prepared to buy one new digital set, the political reckoning would still be fearsome if Mr Smith or his successors were responsible for fading out the picture on all the other screens.

If the Culture Secretary decides that discretion would indeed be a wise and valiant course to take, digital terrestrial television would have a slow and difficult birth. After all, 200 channel television systems are due to launch on digital satellite and digital cable next year.

History suggests that Mr Smith should leave well alone or find other ways of reducing the cost of digital equipment, perhaps through tax incentives. Previous governments have tried to boost British industry in the communications sector by setting high technical standards and driving consumer demand in particular directions, and little good came of it. Occasionally on city roofs, you can still see a useless, melancholy BSB Squaral designed to bring viewers the highest quality pictures. It is almost as if they are there as warnings to governments not to get carried away by the white heat of technology and trust the people and their judgment on what electronic equipment they want to buy, or can be sold, rather than trying to mandate technical change.



RAYMOND SNODDY

Why local stations can't do without News Bunny

Kelvin MacKenzie, managing director of Mirror Television, has had another ground-breaking idea for Live TV, the cable channel that has already brought viewers to the weather forecast in Norwegian and News Bunny.

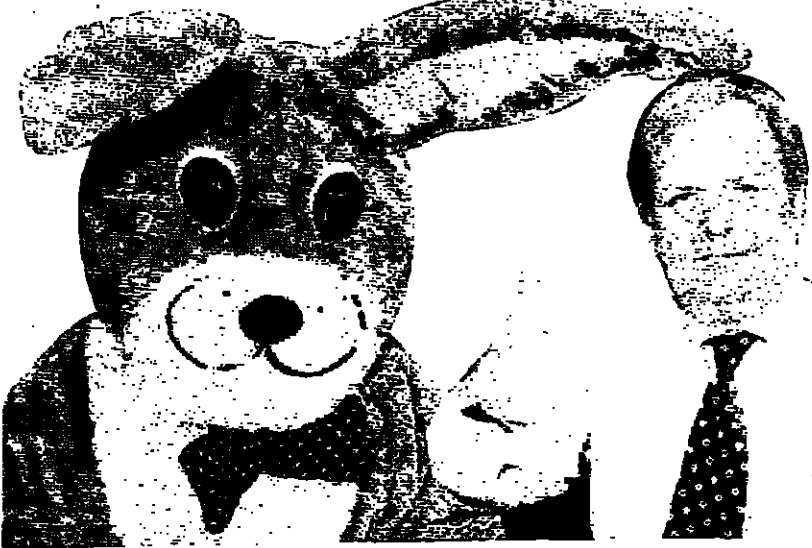
"We are going to get a very fat bloke dancing on a table and then the table collapses and the bloke goes ahhhhhhh. It goes on for a minute," Mr MacKenzie says. "This may not do much but can I tell you people prefer one-minute television to half-an-hour television," says the former Editor of *The Sun*. He adds, in the spirit of being helpful to David Elstein, the cerebral chief executive of Channel 5, that Channel 5 would be a success much sooner if it adopted a few such "ridiculous, totally ridiculous" ideas.

Mr MacKenzie's great achievement so far has been to make what would otherwise have been an obscure cable-only channel with a national share of viewing of 0.5 per cent, into one of the most notorious channels in the world attracting documentary-makers from as far away as Australia to observe the phenomenon.

In fact the News Bunny and topless darts have obscured Mr MacKenzie's more serious purpose — the creation of a large network of truly local TV stations in the UK.

Later this month Live TV will launch its sixth local service, in Newcastle upon Tyne, and will mark the occasion by rechristening the entire genre, the city television network. At the beginning of every hour there is half an hour of local news and information, usually produced by a team of about 20, a programme that is updated regularly. The second half-hour features the national Live service from London.

If Newcastle follows the pattern of Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Edinburgh and Westminster, the cities that already have a local service, then there will be programmes concentrating on the local football teams complete with interviews with



The News Bunny and Kelvin MacKenzie, the managing director of Mirror Television

Despite Live TV's whacky image Kelvin MacKenzie's real aim is to create truly local television. Raymond Snoddy reports

managers, programmes on pets and vets, the local entertainment scene plus up-to-date news on local transport.

"We want to drive our national service but the truth is that three times more people watch us locally than ever will watch us nationally. If it was the other way around we wouldn't have a business," Mr MacKenzie admits.

Live, which is part of the Mirror Group, publishers of *The Mirror* and *Sunday Mirror*, plans to continue expanding. Next year the channel wants to open local stations in Wolverhampton, Nottingham, Leicester and possibly Oxford. "In 2000 we will have 20 stations and 20 streams of revenue, although Live will still be the backbone for the other half hour," Live has also been given the job of selling local advertising for a number of cable companies including Telewest and Mr MacKenzie expects revenues to rise to £13 million next year.

At a time when Live has been expanding, the other

cable-only news channel, Channel One, has been retrenching or at the least trying to address the market in a different way.

The channel, which is owned by Associated Newspapers, publishers of the *Daily Mail*, recently announced more than 60 redundancies and a new format. Channel One has in London, Bristol and Liverpool eschewed the gimmicks of Live and concentrated on more traditional coverage of local news.

On Monday evening, under the title *More News Less Rabbit*, it relaunched its service on a more local basis in London. By combining text from PA News, the national agency, on screen alongside local features, Channel One says it can provide a tailor-made news service for different areas of London.

As for Mr MacKenzie, he believes the main challenge now is to persuade more local advertisers that they can afford to advertise on TV, or at

least on the city television network. "The problem for us is in encouraging local advertisers to understand there's a price less than half that of newspaper or radio advertising and they will get a substantial return," he says.

Mr MacKenzie is convinced from his days editing *The Sun* that television is the most powerful advertising medium.

"At *The Sun* I was both a half-wit and a genius. I was a half-wit when sales were wallowing around 3.5 million and then when I went on TV with bingo and sales shot up over 4 million I was a genius. I put that down to the power of television," says Mr MacKenzie, who can now offer local advertising spots at £20 or £25.

Recently, Mr MacKenzie said a local Birmingham businessman appeared to do a crazy thing — he spent £2,000 advertising jet skis on the local Live service. "He sold ten. It was frankly unbelievable to me," Mr MacKenzie admits.

Now the managing director of Mirror Television is thinking of removing the risk for some local advertisers. "If someone says they have ten caravans to sell we will give us £6,000 and we will run the adverts until we have sold all ten so that puts the pressure on us. So if in 12 years' time..."

► REWARDING TIMES ◀

PLAY PORTFOLIO £200,000 TO BE WON

£2,000 TO BE WON TODAY — TURN TO THE EQUITY PAGE 30

This week we launch new Portfolio, an exciting opportunity to play the stock market without getting your fingers burnt. You can win £2,000 a day six days a week in *The Times*, and you can play every Sunday in *The Sunday Times* to win

£5,000. Better still, there is a £10,000 weekly prize, if you play Portfolio in both papers, seven days a week. Your gamecard was inserted in yesterday's *Times* and another will be inserted on Monday, September 22. Playing Portfolio is easy and fun. Every week companies' share prices go up and down in the real world of the Stock Exchange. So you can experience the excitement of the stock market swings, but without taking any risks.

HOW TO PLAY

- On each individual Portfolio gamecard there are eight numbers printed in a grid. (See example, above)
- These numbers represent eight out of 44 companies listed on the Portfolio panel (see Equity Prices, page 30).
- The eight are your "Portfolio of Shares".
- The 44 companies are taken from the hundreds whose shares are listed on *The Times* Equity Prices page every day.
- Simply check the share price movement (+ or -) of your eight Portfolio shares.
- When you have checked all eight share movements and entered them on to the Portfolio panel on page 30, add them up to obtain your plus or minus total.

THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES

Portfolio

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7373401

- When adding up your total, ignore fractions, ie enter 16½ as 16 (the symbol ... equals no change).
- If your overall total exactly matches the points required in the Daily Portfolio Dividend, printed on the Portfolio panel on page 30, you win or share the £2,000 daily prize.

WEEKLY ACCUMULATOR GAME

The weekly accumulator game starts in *The Times* on Monday, September 22. To play the weekly accumulator game you simply add up your daily Portfolio totals, Monday to Sunday. If your accumulator total matches exactly the weekly portfolio accumulator dividend, published in the *The Sunday Times*, you win or share the weekly accumulator prize of £10,000.

HOW TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE

Claims for *The Times* daily Portfolio dividend must be made to the Portfolio claims line on 0171-481 3388 between 9.30am and 3pm today. No claims can be accepted outside these hours and you must claim your prize the day you win. You must have your card with you when you claim. Other persons can claim on your behalf provided they have your card. No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stated hours. In the event of more than one valid claim for any prize, that prize will be divided equally among the winners.

*You can get a Portfolio card by calling the card request line on 0171-481 3355 during normal office hours. There will be another gamecard in *The Times* on Monday, September 22, and cards are also available at selected newsagents.

THE TIMES

NEWS

Talks in jeopardy after bombing

The Government was struggling to rescue Northern Ireland's fragile peace talks last night after a 400lb bomb exploded in the tiny County Armagh town of Markethill.

The Ulster Unionist Party, which was close to joining the Stormont peace process, immediately blamed the IRA for the attack, in which nobody was injured, and demanded that Sinn Féin, be expelled from the talks. Page 1

Princess's bodyguard able to talk

The bodyguard who survived the crash that killed Diana, Princess of Wales, has spoken for the first time after a rapid improvement in his condition, French hospital officials said yesterday. Police were on hand at La Pitié-Salpêtrière hospital when Trevor Rees-Jones, 29, uttered his first words. His immediate family were also there. Page 1

Blair cuts pay rise

Tony Blair moved to defuse a growing row over public sector pay yesterday by announcing he would forgo a £40,000 salary rise and would take an inflation-linked increase. Page 2

Parents complain

Complaints from parents whose children have been refused places at the schools of their choice have risen by 50 per cent, the local government watchdog warned yesterday. Page 4

Horror is academic

Real art can never be immoral. With this defence, the Royal Academy of Arts was unrepentant yesterday about its decision to exhibit a portrait of murderer Myra Hindley. Page 5

Roadside drug tests

Plans for roadside drug tests of motorists are being studied by the Department of Transport and senior police. A trial could start within nine months. Page 6

Battle for heroes

The site of the first D-Day assault in France saw a less heroic skirmish yesterday over plans to close a museum commemorating the event. Page 7

Welsh jobs 'at risk'

Wales would lose thousands of jobs if voters rejected an assembly in tomorrow's referendum, Peter Hain, a Welsh Office Minister, claimed yesterday. Page 8

Blind man 'finds' Tsar's lost library

An elderly and blind Moscow pensioner claims to have solved one of Russia's most enduring historical riddles: the whereabouts of Ivan the Terrible's secret library, hidden under the Kremlin for more than four centuries. According to Tass, Apalos Ivanov, 87, has asked the Mayor of Moscow to fund an archaeological team to find the library. Page 11

Growing pains

Children as young as five are to have lessons in "psychological healthcare" to help them to cope with the stresses of modern life, from bullying to divorce. Page 9

Battle of dung hill

A farmer who blocked public footpaths with tons of manure was fined £500 and ordered to pay costs of £3,500 yesterday for "blatant flouting" the rights of walkers. Page 10

Wanted: judge

A Tennessee judge who sexually assaulted at least five women in chambers was on the run from the law yesterday. His disappearance resulted in a national manhunt in America. Page 12

Mir near-miss

The crew of the Russian space station Mir prepared for an emergency evacuation earlier this week during a near-miss in space, officials said. Page 13

Japanese first

Sadako Ogata, the popular head of the United Nations refugee agency, is being tipped to become the first deputy secretary-general of the UN. Page 14

Congo boom

Four months after driving the despotic Mobutu Sese Seko from power the government of the re-named Democratic Republic of the Congo has worked economic miracles. Page 15



Queen Beatrix and members of the Dutch royal family wave to crowds after she delivered her "speech from the throne" yesterday

BUSINESS

Tesco: Tesco has grabbed a bigger slice of the grocery market in the last 12 months, confirming its position as Britain's pre-eminent food retailer. Page 25

Baywatching: Pearson, the media group, has held preliminary talks over talks with All American Communications, the makers of *Baywatch*, the TV show that stars Pamela Anderson. Page 25

Economy: Government borrowing remained tightly under control in August leaving the Treasury well on target. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 73.5 points to close at 4976.4. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 99.5 to 99.1 after a fall from \$1.6048 to \$1.5939 and from DM2.8296 to DM2.8183. Page 28

SPORT

Football: Teddy Sheringham has recovered more quickly than expected from a rib injury and may be in Manchester United's side for the Champions' League match against Kosice. Page 45

Rugby union: Clive Woodward was confirmed as full-time coach of the England team. Roger Utley will be team manager and will share selection duties. Page 48

Golf: Miguel Angel Martin, who has threatened legal action over his omission from the Ryder Cup, withdrew from the British Masters because of his continuing wrist injury. Page 46

Rugby league: Shaun Edwards and Martin Offiah are in the Great Britain training squad for the series against Australia. Page 45

ARTS

New theatre: Three West End musicals hope to prove that small can be beautiful, while winning entries in the Vivian Ellis Awards for promising musicals look forward to being staged. Page 33

High notes: Paul Daniel conducts a rip-roaring Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman* for English National Opera in which musical values ride high. Page 34

Conductor speaks: In the second extract from the new book *Solti on Solti*, the late conductor talks about the trials of working at the Bayreuth Festival. Page 35

Pop concert: Monaco packs an emotional punch at their gig in Wolverhampton, even though the audience was a little thin on the ground. Page 35

FEATURES

Chance encounter: "I have always been extremely lucky to be inspired by pure random, fluke meetings," says Laura Bailey, the model who has landed a contract with Pretty Polly. She also likes to present an air of mystery. Page 16

Keep drinking: So good is the effect of alcohol in old age that it is now recommended in many homes for the elderly. In the final extract from his new book, Dr Thomas Stuttaford advises the elderly to raise their glasses and to carry on drinking. Page 17

Popular will: Is the Royal Family prepared to listen to the views of its subjects, or is popular opinion irrelevant? Nigella Lawson asks a question posed by no one else nearly three weeks AD — after Diana. Page 17

MEDIA

Royal clash: When editors fall out: Brian MacArthur on the row between Paul Dacre of the *Daily Mail* and Charles Moore of the *Daily Telegraph* about royal reporting. Page 22

THE PAPERS

Madeline Albright worked no miracles on her inaugural trip to the Middle East. Tough talks alone will not move these mountains of resistance. Only with unrelenting USA perseverance and some diplomatic head-knocking will peace get another chance. — *USA Today*

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

TRAVEL NEWS
Why St Lucia wants to replace bananas with tourists

BOOKS
Peter Ackroyd looks at three books on Jane Austen; Russell Celyn Jones reviews Martin Amis's *Night Train*

FORECAST

General: S. England cloudy with occasional rain. Drizzle possible in Wales, north Wales dry with sunny spells. East Angles, the Midlands and Northern Ireland brightening to sunshine. N. England fine all day. Scotland sun and showers, heavy with wind in the north. Tonight S. England and S. Wales cloudy and mild with light showers. Clear spells and showers in N and W Scotland, and Northern Ireland. Ground frost in N. England, S. Scotland.

London, SE England, Cent S. England, Channel Isles, SW England, S. Wales: cloudy, occasional light rain, limited bright spells. Light SW wind, NW later. Max 20C (68F).

IE Angles, E Midlands, W Midlands: early light rain, sunny later. A light N wind. Max 20C (68F).

IE England, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Cent N, NE England: fine, bright, NW wind falling to light. Max 19C (66F).

Borderline, E. Angles & D. Isles, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, N. Ireland: cool, breezy with sunny spells and showers. Fresh NW wind will ease. Max temp 18C (64F).

LINE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: cold and blustery with sunny spells. Sharp showers mostly north coast and on islands. Fresh to strong NW wind. Max 14C (57F).

Republic of Ireland: cloudy with patchy rain in south, drier elsewhere. Wind NE, light. Max 17C (63F).

Outlook: showers on Thursday, dry and sunny Friday after cold start

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

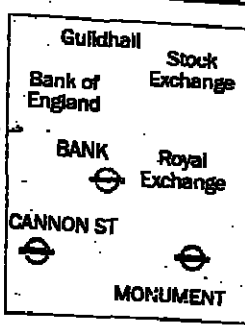
24 hrs to 5 pm: b = bright; c = cloud; d = drizzle; ds = dust storm; du = dust; f = fog; lg = gale; g = gale; h = hail.

Area	Sun	Rain	Max	Min	Wind	Sea	Temp
Aberdeen	12	0.20	17	6	17	1	17
Anglesey	1.8	1.18	15	5	15	1	15
Armagh	3.1	0.31	15	5	15	1	15
Belfast	2.0	0.29	18	6	18	1	18
Birmingham	10.2	1.02	20	8	20	1	20
Bournemouth	10.3	1.03	20	8	20	1	20
Bristol	10.4	1.04	20	8	20	1	20
Buckingham	10.5	1.05	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	10.6	1.06	20	8	20	1	20
Canterbury	10.7	1.07	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	10.8	1.08	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	10.9	1.09	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	11.0	1.10	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	11.1	1.11	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	11.2	1.12	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	11.3	1.13	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	11.4	1.14	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	11.5	1.15	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	11.6	1.16	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	11.7	1.17	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	11.8	1.18	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	11.9	1.19	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	12.0	1.20	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	12.1	1.21	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	12.2	1.22	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	12.3	1.23	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	12.4	1.24	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	12.5	1.25	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	12.6	1.26	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	12.7	1.27	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	12.8	1.28	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	12.9	1.29	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	13.0	1.30	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	13.1	1.31	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	13.2	1.32	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	13.3	1.33	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	13.4	1.34	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	13.5	1.35	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	13.6	1.36	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	13.7	1.37	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	13.8	1.38	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	13.9	1.39	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	14.0	1.40	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	14.1	1.41	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	14.2	1.42	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	14.3	1.43	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	14.4	1.44	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	14.5	1.45	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	14.6	1.46	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	14.7	1.47	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	14.8	1.48	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	14.9	1.49	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	15.0	1.50	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	15.1	1.51	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	15.2	1.52	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	15.3	1.53	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	15.4	1.54	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	15.5	1.55	20	8	20	1	20
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Cardiff	15.7	1.57	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	15.8	1.58	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	15.9	1.59	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	16.0	1.60	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	16.1	1.61	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	16.2	1.62	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	16.3	1.63	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	16.4	1.64	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	16.5	1.65	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	16.6	1.66	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	16.7	1.67	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	16.8	1.68	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	16.9	1.69	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	17.0	1.70	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	17.1	1.71	20	8	20	1	20
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Cardiff	17.5	1.75	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	17.6	1.76	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	17.7	1.77	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	17.8	1.78	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	17.9	1.79	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	18.0	1.80	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	18.1	1.81	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	18.2	1.82	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	18.3	1.83	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	18.4	1.84	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	18.5	1.85	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	18.6	1.86	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	18.7	1.87	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	18.8	1.88	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	18.9	1.89	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	19.0	1.90	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	19.1	1.91	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	19.2	1.92	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	19.3	1.93	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	19.4	1.94	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	19.5	1.95	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	19.6	1.96	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	19.7	1.97	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	19.8	1.98	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	19.9	1.99	20	8	20	1	20
Cardiff	20.0	2.00	20	8	20	1	20

ABROAD

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30 86 %	Puncha	22 72 %	Mexico C	20 88 %	Sanlargo	21 70 %
19 61 %	Florida	16 64 %	Miami	22 72 %	Saudi	24 74 %
29 84 %	Puerto	17 73 %	Ming	23 73 %	Saudi	24 74 %
29 84 %	Genova	16 61 %	Montreal	21 70 %	Strasbourg	14 57 %
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 17 1997

IMF tells Europe to copy UK economic policies

FROM JANET BUSH IN HONG KONG

THE International Monetary Fund will today give warning that Europe risks "undermining" public support for a single currency unless it embraces radical labour market reforms along British lines.

In an unusually strongly worded attack, the IMF will argue that the European Union must move quickly to tackle its "dismal" unemployment problem or will leave the region facing years of weak economic growth.

But the IMF, which is holding its annual meeting here this week, praises Britain for its comprehensive programme of reform. It predicts that the British economy will enjoy a soft landing next year and welcomes the Government's decision to grant independence to the Bank of England.

The Fund argues in its latest *World Economic Outlook* that unless France and Germany take significant steps to make labour markets more flexible,

Outlook also calls for a redoubling of efforts to cut European budget deficits. It says Germany, France and Italy are likely to exceed the Maastricht treaty's limits on deficits unless further measures are taken.

A failure to meet the criteria could have grave consequences for monetary union. "If EMU is not accompanied by further progress with structural reforms and fiscal consolidation, there are likely to be serious consequences for Europe, and other regions are likely to bear part of the cost," says the IMF.

It adopts a more sanguine view on Britain's economic prospects, claiming that the economy is likely to slow to a more sustainable rate due to the strength of sterling, increases in interest rates and further efforts to tackle the budget deficit.

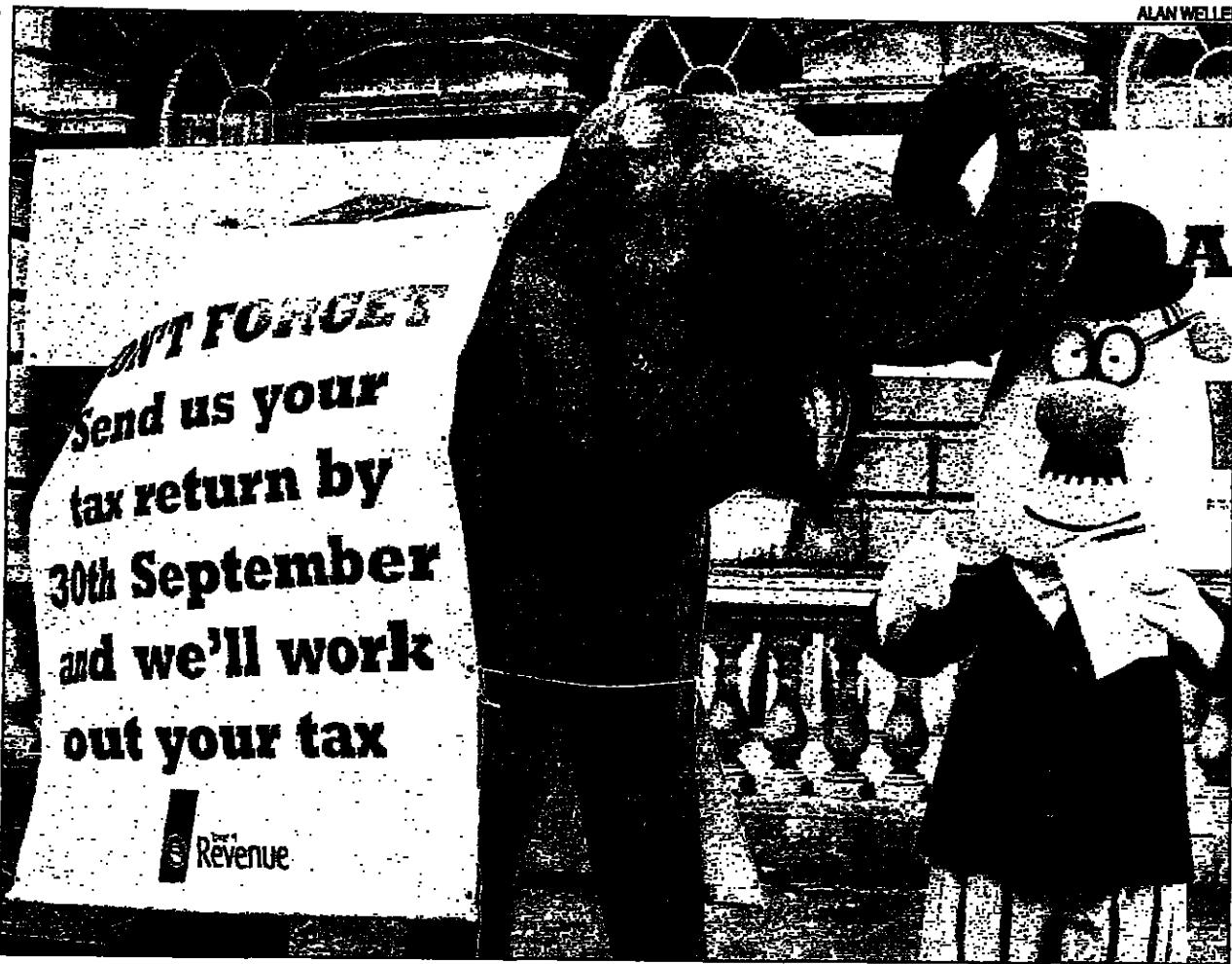
In contrast to many countries on the Continent, Britain has enjoyed a sharp fall in unemployment - to 5.5 per cent in July from a peak of more than 10 per cent in 1993 - and the IMF predicts unemployment will fall further to 5 per cent by next year.

The Fund clearly does not share the fears of many commentators in Britain that the combination of an appreciating currency and higher interest rates is going to tip the economy back into recession. It is predicting a slowdown in growth from 3.3 per cent this year to a respectable 2.6 per cent next year. Since its last *World Economic Outlook* in May, which predates the four interest rate rises, it has revised its growth projections down only slightly.

The IMF applauds the decision by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, to give operational independence over interest rates to the Bank of England. Current policies "appear well geared to alleviate inflationary pressures but will need to pay close attention to signs of excessive strength in domestic demand".

The Fund also takes a relatively positive view of the recent crisis in Far Eastern markets, arguing that "there are reasons to believe that the currency turbulence will eventually wane without greatly damaging the region's long-term prospects".

Even Thailand, which recently benefited from a \$17 billion IMF and Asian rescue plan, should return to a long-term growth trend after a temporary slowdown.



Yesterday's attempt by the Inland Revenue to encourage nearly five million laggards to send in their self-assessment forms went awry. Rani, a 26-year-old elephant hired as an aide memoire, ate a self-assessment form proffered by a tax inspector. And, as the three-tonne beast made her exit, the self-assessment bus crashed in to a stone bollard at the gate to the Revenue's offices in Somerset House, London. So far only 3.3 million out of 8 million have returned their forms

Boler back as chief quits at Limelight

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

LIMELIGHT, the struggling kitchens and bathrooms group whose shares have fallen nearly 80 per cent since it floated a year ago, has parted company with its chief executive and is to step Stephen Boler, the Cheshire entrepreneur who put the group together, return as an adviser.

Stephen Cotter's resignation as chief executive comes less than a week after Limelight reported a sharp fall in first-half profits and gave warning that the full-year outcome will be well below forecasts. Although he has been with the company for only two years, his loss-of-office compensation is expected to reach £350,000.

Andrew Stanaway, managing director of Sharps, the fitted bedrooms business, has been made group managing director. He will sit on an advisory committee with Mr Boler, who made £60 million from selling 43 per cent of the business at flotation and who still owns 17 per cent of it. Andrew Thomas, chairman, and Peter Lumsley, managing director of the kitchens business, will also sit on the committee.

Mr Boler, who runs a game park in Africa and rarely visits Britain, is not expected to take an executive role again, and Mr Thomas said that he did not expect him to try to return the company to private ownership.

Limelight shares closed up 2p yesterday at 37½p. They were floated at 175p.

Pearson casts its eye over the makers of Baywatch

BY ERIC REGULY AND OLIVER AUGUST

PEARSON, the media group, has held preliminary takeover talks with All American Communications, the makers of *Baywatch*, the television show that launched the career of Pamela Anderson.

Pearson refused to comment on takeover rumours, but an official admitted that the company was familiar with All American. It is known that Greg Dyke, the head of Pearson TV, wants to expand the group's TV production arm.

He examined All American last year and decided that the price tag then quoted, said to be more than £200 million, was too expensive.

All American is now officially for sale and appears anxious to open talks with all potential suitors.

The *Hollywood Reporter*, the trade magazine seen as a bible in the entertainment industry, revealed that Pearson and Live Entertainment, an independent American film

company, were among the contenders for All American. The magazine raised the possibility of a joint bid.

Goldman Sachs, the investment bank, is acting as All American's sales agent. Anthony Scotti, chairman and chief executive, has a controlling stake in All American.

While *Baywatch* is All American's top show, it produces or distributes 100 programmes, including *The Price Is Right* and *The Newlywed Game*.

Treasury well placed to meet PSBR target

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT borrowing remained tightly under control in August, leaving the Treasury well placed to meet its full-year target.

The public sector borrowing requirement in August totalled £1.14 billion, £3 billion lower than in the same month last year. The cumulative deficit for the first five months of the year now stands at £6.6 billion (£15.1 billion).

The significantly better than expected figures prompted a surge in the gilt market with the gap in price with German bonds closing to a three-year low of about 125 basis points.

Total tax receipts rose 18 per cent over last year, boosted by strong tobacco revenue as manufacturers increased production to avoid the duty rises in the July Budget. As a result Customs and Excise receipts reached a record high of £9.2

billion, while income tax continued to grow strongly.

Government spending also remained under control with departmental outlays falling 2 per cent year-on-year. Core spending is running around 1.3 per cent lower than in August last year.

Economists said the latest improvement leaves the PSBR comfortably on target to meet the official forecast of £11 billion. Dharshini David, UK economist at HSBC, added that it would still be extremely difficult for the Government to stick to its "stringent" spending targets over the next two years.

Commonwealth finance ministers meeting in Mauritius yesterday gave strong support to Gordon Brown's plans to speed up debt relief for developing countries.

Commentary, page 27

Soros's manager shares £1bn fees

BY OLIVER AUGUST
AND PAUL DURMAN

NICHOLAS RODITI, the north London fund manager, has shared £1 billion of fees with George Soros over the past five years from running a highly successful investment fund.

Mr Roditi runs the Quota Fund, a spin-off of Mr Soros's famous Quantum Fund, which was involved in toppling the pound on Black Wednesday in 1992.

The Quota Fund has net assets of \$2.4 billion (£1.5 billion) and holds leveraged trading positions worth \$57 billion, according to Wall Street reports. Return on capital last year topped 50 per cent, after reaching 150 per cent in 1995.

Mr Soros's latest annual report shows that a minimum investment of \$100,000 in Mr Roditi's fund in 1992 would now be worth \$750,000. The report discloses that the fund has paid \$1.65 billion in fees, shared between Mr Roditi and Mr Soros.

Mr Roditi runs Quota single handed from a Hampstead office filled with modern art.

Recently, Mr Roditi made a complex \$38 billion bet that the dollar will appreciate against other currencies. He also wagered \$13 billion on the fall of bonds in Asia.

Mr Roditi does not give interviews and guards his privacy. He is 52 and was born in Zimbalawe, then Rhodesia. He came to Britain in the late 1960s and joined Schroders, the merchant bank, before moving on to work with Jacob Rothschild.

In a rare public move, he joined Rupert Pennant-Rea, former Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, with whom he went to school, to take control of Plantation & General, a small quoted company owning African plantations.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET MOVEMENTS	
FTSE 100	4876.4 (+73.8)
Yield	3.32%
FTSE All share	2338.19 (+28.97)
Nikkei	17974.50 (+8.70)
New York	
Dow Jones	7793.47 (+72.33)*
S&P Composite	933.68 (+13.91)*
US RATE	
Federal Funds	5.5% (5.5%)
Long Bond	98% (97%)
Yield	6.47% (6.57%)
LONDON MONEY	
3-mth Interbank	7% (7%)
Life long gilt	
future (Dec)	117% (115%)
STERLING	
New York	1.5940* (1.6065)
London	
DM	1.5945 (1.6041)
DM	2.8192 (2.8300)
FF	9.4712 (9.5068)
SFR	2.3059 (2.3301)
Yen	121.08* (120.16)
£ Index	99.1 (98.5)
DOLLAR	
London	
DM	1.7682* (1.7604)
FF	5.9385* (5.9155)
SFR	1.4478* (1.4458)
Yen	121.08* (120.16)
£ Index	105.5 (105.2)
Tokyo close Yen 120.65	
MONTHLY SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Nov)	\$18.80 (\$18.35)
GOLD	
London close	\$321.85 (\$322.15)
* denotes midday trading price	

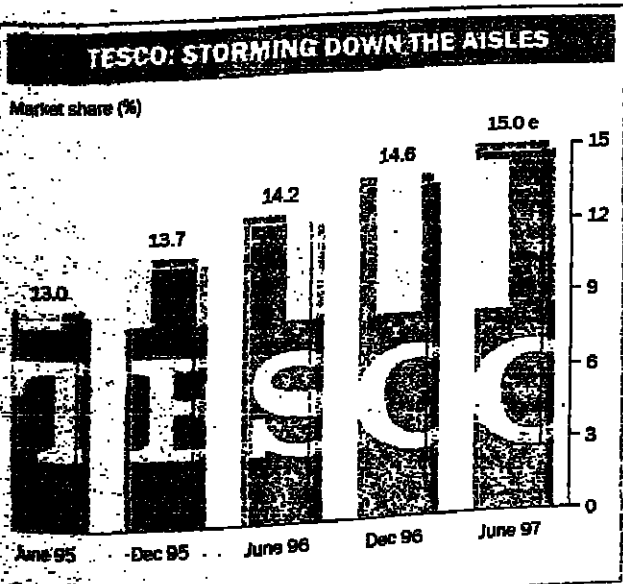
Mail call

The Post Office is calling for an urgent reform of world postal regulations so that it can compete with the likes of the Dutch and US postal services in the international marketplace. Page 26

In the frame

Getty Communication has become the world's largest supplier of commercial stock photographs after a £100 million buy of PhotoDisc of Seattle. Page 31

Tesco's slice of grocery market grows



TESCO has grabbed a bigger slice of the grocery market in the past 12 months, it revealed yesterday, confirming its position as Britain's pre-eminent food retailer.

The company, which has unseated J Sainsbury from the number one spot, increased its share of the UK grocery market from 14.2 per cent to 15 per cent, mainly at the expense of the smaller store chains.

Terry Leahy, chief executive, signalled that while he is keen to boost sales further by introducing more French-style hypermarkets into Britain, he is unwilling to make further acquisitions in France. This raises the possibility that

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

Tesco will sell the Normandy-based Cateau chain that it bought four years ago.

Mr Leahy said that Cateau's performance, with flat like-for-like sales, had been disappointing. "We wanted to buy a bigger business but the prices don't make economic sense," he said. He ruled out a counter bid for Casino, the French supermarket chain.

Group like-for-like sales grew 6 per cent in the first half and are currently ahead by 8 per cent. The strong trading performance pushed Tesco's pre-tax profit up 6.1 per cent, to £346 million, in the six months to August 9. It will

pay an interim dividend of 3.55p (3.25p).

The group is increasing competition in the personal finance arena by launching its first instant access savings account with the high rate of 6.5 per cent. Plans are afoot to introduce more non-food items, such as clothing, CDs, books and electrical goods, into the stores, particularly Tesco Extra hypermarkets. There is currently just one, at Pitsea in Essex, and two more are due to open soon. Planning permission is being sought to extend some existing stores to hypermarket size.

Commentary, page 27

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Abbey National Life	32.78	Commercial Union	75.00
Barclays Life	35.40	Abbey National Life	77.58
Commercial Union	36.00	Barclays Life	86.00
Friends Provident	41.58	Friends Provident	88.99
Pearl Assurance	44.00	Pearl Assurance	99.00
Clerical Medical	45.50	Clerical Medical	111.20
London & Manchester	50.85	London & Manchester	115.34
Scottish Life	58.51	Scottish Life	137.40
We can arrange this for 23.70 p.m.		We can arrange this for 53.00 p.m.	

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disasters

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Curtains for the French window?



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth must look back longingly on the days when he had only a supermarket business to run instead of the nation's cricket.

His reign at Tesco saw the company transformed and the indications are that he has left in place a management that will build on his achievements. But having secured his energetic services to restore our cricketing fortunes, the chaps who control the game do not seem prepared to react to his ideas with the enthusiasm that was the norm at Tesco.

If they could switch their minds from sport for a moment and look at the results that the grocer turned in yesterday, even the most sceptical cricket fan might decide that Lord MacLaurin's strategies should not be dismissed lightly. There was a stage when the management of J Sainsbury underestimated the man who had taken charge of their rival and the results are still being felt. Tesco can now comfortably claim to be the country's biggest grocer, with 15 per cent of the market.

Remarkably, the company increased its like-for-like sales by six per cent in the half year, gobbling business from the weaker brethren of the grocery scene.

But Lord MacLaurin knew that the British appetite for groceries must eventually be satiated and he set in train the basis for expansion elsewhere.

The product range is growing, and a push to larger stores on hypermarket lines will bring in more high margin lines. Astonishingly, Tesco now claims to have between 6 and 7 per cent of the total retail market in the UK. But planning permissions are hard won and will not allow the company to maintain its growth rate in the UK. Sainsbury's development of its Savacentre hypermarket business has been pitifully slow, hampered by the difficulty in gaining suitable sites.

So Tesco has ventured overseas, first into France and then into central Europe. In Hungary and Poland, the locals have leapt at what their few new super-markets have to offer but in France, as the company confesses, sales have been static.

The French stores may, as Tesco insists, have provided a useful learning experience, but growth is what counts and that means expanding the business or quitting. Since prices for super-markets have reached astronomical levels, as demonstrated by the current bidding for Casino, Tesco would be well advised to take advantage of the market and bow out. It could put the proceeds to good use in

building on its lead in central Europe.

Terry Leahy, Lord MacLaurin's chosen successor at Tesco Towers in Cheshunt, has already won the confidence of analysts and investors. A decisive move on France would demonstrate that he has the flexibility to respond to a changing marketplace.

Lord MacLaurin must hope that he can encourage such responsiveness in cricket.

Ayling's next challenge

The planned get together of American Airlines and British Airways has been forced into the time scale of old fashioned courtships, under the surly chaperoning of the world's regulators, but as Dame Barbara Cartland would understand, the obstacles put in the couple's way seem only to have strengthened

their resolve. Yesterday's optimistic comments from AA underlined the huge potential that the two see for their partnership and, while code sharing is a useful start, the benefits from closer integration are infinitely preferable to both parties. Which is why Bob Ayling, the British Airways chief executive, will fight hard for the deal. And few would bet against him after his recent demonstration of determination. After facing down the wrath of thousands of angry cabin crew and irate, luggage-less, passengers, Mr Ayling is hardly likely to bow to the whim of regulators or the whinges of Richard Branson, who has rallied against the partnership and can be guaranteed to continue to do so even as the rings are about to be exchanged.

Mr Ayling took much criticism for his handling of the BA industrial battle and has received few plaudits for the outcome, achieved during a period when

newspapers had their attentions largely focused elsewhere.

But the fact is that he believed he was fighting for the right to manage his business and he has held on to that right.

His threat to sue or dismiss staff who went on strike prompted accusations of the worst kind of macho-management and the dispute has undoubtedly been costly for BA. But fellow captains of industry were privately egging on Ayling, fearful of the impact on their own companies if he had been seen to bow to the unions.

Attempting to save face, the union, BASSA, claims credit for seriously disrupting BA, even if most of the impact was caused by 2,000 staff who fell conveniently ill. But the overall result is that BA gets its £42 million cabin crew cost-savings and the freedom to change working practices which will be worth far more than the estimated £125 million cost of the strike.

Ayling has won the battle and deserves credit for it, but the toughest task may yet lie ahead. Macho management leaves scars and morale among BA's 60,000-strong workforce is badly battered.

A little TLC may be what is required if passengers are not to feel the knock-on effects of his determination to win.

Pay tests ahead for the iron Chancellor

Gordon Brown is beginning to look like the meanest inhabitant of 11 Downing Street for decades. He has clamped down on public expenditure with the full force of a Scot intent on treating the public purse as his own. A 2.7 per cent decline in net spending by government departments during August compared with a year earlier took the City pleasantly by surprise yesterday as the latest PSBR figures came in well below expectations.

But while he is prudently conserving funds for the future, there remain doubts over how long the Government can maintain such a tight-fisted stance. While Tony Blair may have seen

the wisdom of turning down a hefty pay rise, other public sector employees would leap at the loot, were it to be on offer.

The first of the pay demands from the public sector unions are now landing, and the figures involved are going to get larger. When private sector pay, particularly in the upper regions, has been increasing at significantly above inflation, it is not going to prove easy to keep the clamps on doctors, nurses and the like.

Having declared itself bound by Kenneth Clarke's spending plans, but then encountering a higher than expected rate of inflation, the Government finds itself in a straitjacket, which its supporters, particularly in the trades unions, may find difficult to countenance.

The market's appreciative reaction to yesterday's figures was understandable, but the real tests of Mr Brown's resolve are just beginning.

Got it made

THE Design Council will today launch its drive to find Millennium Products. Nearly £4 million of government money has apparently been earmarked to slap this label on the best of British design. What will qualify for this naff sounding designation, and why, remains to be explained. The only certainty is that somewhere in the Far East they are already working on a suitable logo to put on a range of naff plastic products.

Scotia to get \$54m in drug licensing deal

By PAUL DURMAN

SCOTIA HOLDINGS, the drug development company, is poised to receive \$54 million (£33.6 million) from two large pharmaceutical companies that are acquiring the marketing rights to Foscan, Scotia's innovative cancer drug.

The licensing deals with Boehringer Ingelheim of Germany and Kyowa Hakko of Japan are a rare piece of good news this year for the biotechnology sector, which has been hit by a series of disappointments.

Scotia will receive about half of the \$54 million up front and the rest as milestone payments dependent on the completion of Foscan's development and commercialisation. Boehringer Ingelheim will have the rights to Europe and the Americas, while Kyowa Hakko will have the rights to Japan. Together, they expect to spend a further \$50 million completing work on Foscan, including testing the drug in the main cancers of the lung, prostate and oesophagus.

Scotia, which retains the

marketing rights for the rest of the world, will continue to fund the current phase 3 trials of the drug in head and neck and laryngeal cancers.

Foscan's attraction is that its use can avoid the serious side effects of chemotherapy and the trauma of surgery. Scotia said researchers from University College London will tomorrow give a briefing on the "excellent" results they have achieved using Foscan to treat cancers of the mouth.

David Horrobin, Scotia's chief executive, estimates that two million patients a year in the US, Europe and Japan contract cancers potentially treatable by Foscan. Erling Refsum, the Yamaichi analyst, believes Foscan could eventually achieve annual sales of £1 billion. Dr Horrobin said Scotia expects manufacturing profits to give it a 25 per cent share of sales. He hopes to secure the first regulatory approvals by the end of 1999.

Shares in Scotia yesterday rose 33½p to 372½p, still far below this year's peak of 735p.

Revamp of Rexam lifts its shares

By CHRIS AYRES

SHARES in Rexam, the struggling paper and packaging group, rose 17p to 327½p yesterday, as the City signalled approval of the company's radical restructuring plan.

Rexam shares have fallen in the past 18 months from 521p to 226½p as raw materials prices rose sharply. Some analysts now consider the shares undervalued.

Rexam has sold 17 businesses, raising nearly £100 million, with three more divisions expected to go this year. The shake-up has brought the resignation of Kevin Abbott, director responsible for food packaging, and the appointment of five new directors.

In the half to June 30, restructuring appears to have helped, with pre-tax profits up from £83 million to £92 million, and sales up slightly from £946 million to £952 million. Earnings per share rose by 9 per cent, to 12.1p. An unchanged total interim dividend of 6.1p is due on September 30.

Warranties on products 'valueless'

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

AN increasing number of product warranties are leaving consumers unprotected because they involve no insurance cover. Martin Copley, chairman of Domestic & General, the insurer, said. Retailers were switching to non-insured maintenance schemes to avoid insurance premium tax, he added.

Last November's Budget lifted IPT on policies sold through retailers from 25 per cent to 17.5 per cent. All other insurance pays 4 per cent. Mr Copley said that the new schemes left consumers unprotected if the manufacturer or retailer went under. Hundreds of thousands were left empty-handed with the failures of Colorvision and Ascom, the computer manufacturer, in the past two years.

D&G's turnover in the year to June 30 grew 13.6 per cent to £84.2 million, pushing pre-tax profits up 12 per cent to £12.7 million. A final dividend of 33p is due on November 20.

Hays chairman tells of hunger for growth

HAYS, the business services group that last year launched an abortive £1.15 billion bid for Christian Salvesen, is hatching plans for vigorous expansion organically and through acquisition (Dominic Walsh writes).

The company spent £160 million on expansion in the past year, just over £100 million of it on buying new businesses. It has already spent £110 million on acquisitions since June.

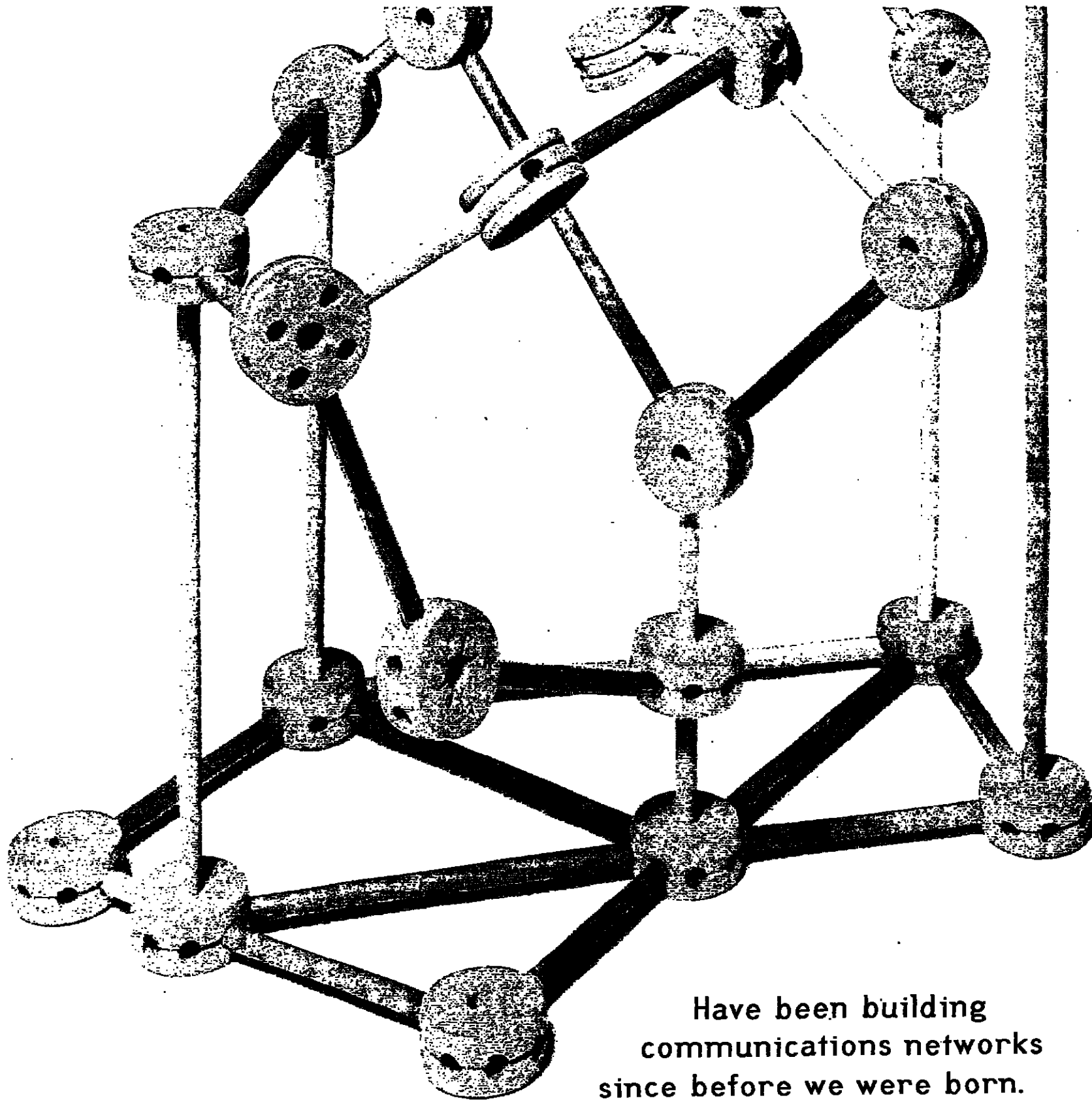
Ronnie Frost, chairman, dismissed suggestions of renewed interest in Salvesen, but said: "I'll spend as much as I need to buy the companies that we

come across that we want to buy. I don't have any problem writing cheques and borrowing money."

His comments came as Hays reported an 18 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £155.3 million in the year to June 30, on turnover up from £966 million to £1.13 billion. That excludes an exceptional charge of £7.5 million.

Pre-exceptional earnings per share rose 18 per cent to 26.3p. A final dividend of 6.3p is due on November 28, making 9.3p in total, up 15 per cent.

Tempos, page 28



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The Government will unveil the latest job figures today, hoping that they will show another fall in unemployment. But ministers insist that joblessness still needs to be tackled with a new range of Welfare to Work policy initiatives will be underlined by a new report that emphasises the fragmented nature of the UK labour market.

Even so, some of the findings of the latest labour market audit by the Employment Policy Institute, the independent jobs think-tank, will make uncomfortable reading for ministers — especially its conclusions on so-called "workless households".

During the election Labour made great play of figures drawn from official data that seemed to show that one in five households in Britain was "workless". The clear impression was that even though unemployment was falling, a huge slice of Britain's families were still being hit by joblessness.

Jobless analysis highlights splintering labour market

Whitehall job analysts have since tried to examine the figures behind the claims, but today's new report by the independent EPI goes a fair way towards puncturing Labour's charges, to the extent that EPI officials now admit to being uncomfortable with the whole concept of workless households.

First, it shows that though workless households now make up 19.3 per cent of the total number of households, compared with 8 per cent in 1979, the largest slice is made up of single adults living alone with no children, followed by single parents with one child. Not only do workless

households with two parents and children make up just 13 per cent of the total of workless households, that figure is actually down from one quarter a decade ago.

But the EPI research does reveal a staggeringly high concentration of worklessness on council estates. Its analysis of the Government's quarterly Labour Force Survey shows that half of all local authority and housing association rented properties are now classified as workless. And over half of households dubbed workless have been without work for more than three years — the people behind these statistics are the targets for the drive

for retraining. But the research also shows that higher skill levels are not preventing unemployment either: more out-of-work people have qualifications now than 20 years ago.

Almost a quarter of all households where the property is owned outright, are deemed as "workless", probably reinforcing the extent to which early retirement is now a disguised form of unemployment. And the form of employment is changing. For the first time, the EPI report details the rise not just of part-time working, but of different forms of it. "Quarter-time jobs" of less than 15 hours a week have grown from 6 per cent of total

part-time jobs in 1979 to 11 per cent now, particularly among men, where quarter-time jobs have seen a four-fold rise.

Students form the bulk of these workers. Some fast-food chains, for instance, have workforces where two-thirds of employees are nominally full-time students. Proposed changes in the wake of the Dearing report on higher education look set to accelerate that trend.

At the same time, the number of people working very long hours has risen. In 1979, 17 per cent of people worked more than 48 hours a week, now it is 20 per cent. For women, though the levels are lower, the pace of change is faster — doubling from 3.5 to 7.2 per cent, reflecting both the decline in jobs traditionally held by men and the limited but notable growth of women in senior business and professional jobs.

PHILIP BASSETT

Past lessons taken to heart as City property market firms up

Martin Waller
says insiders
see demand
growing
without
overheating

There are — depending on which rumours you believe — half a dozen interesting stories around the City, Canary Wharf and other areas accessible to the financial community for large office space.

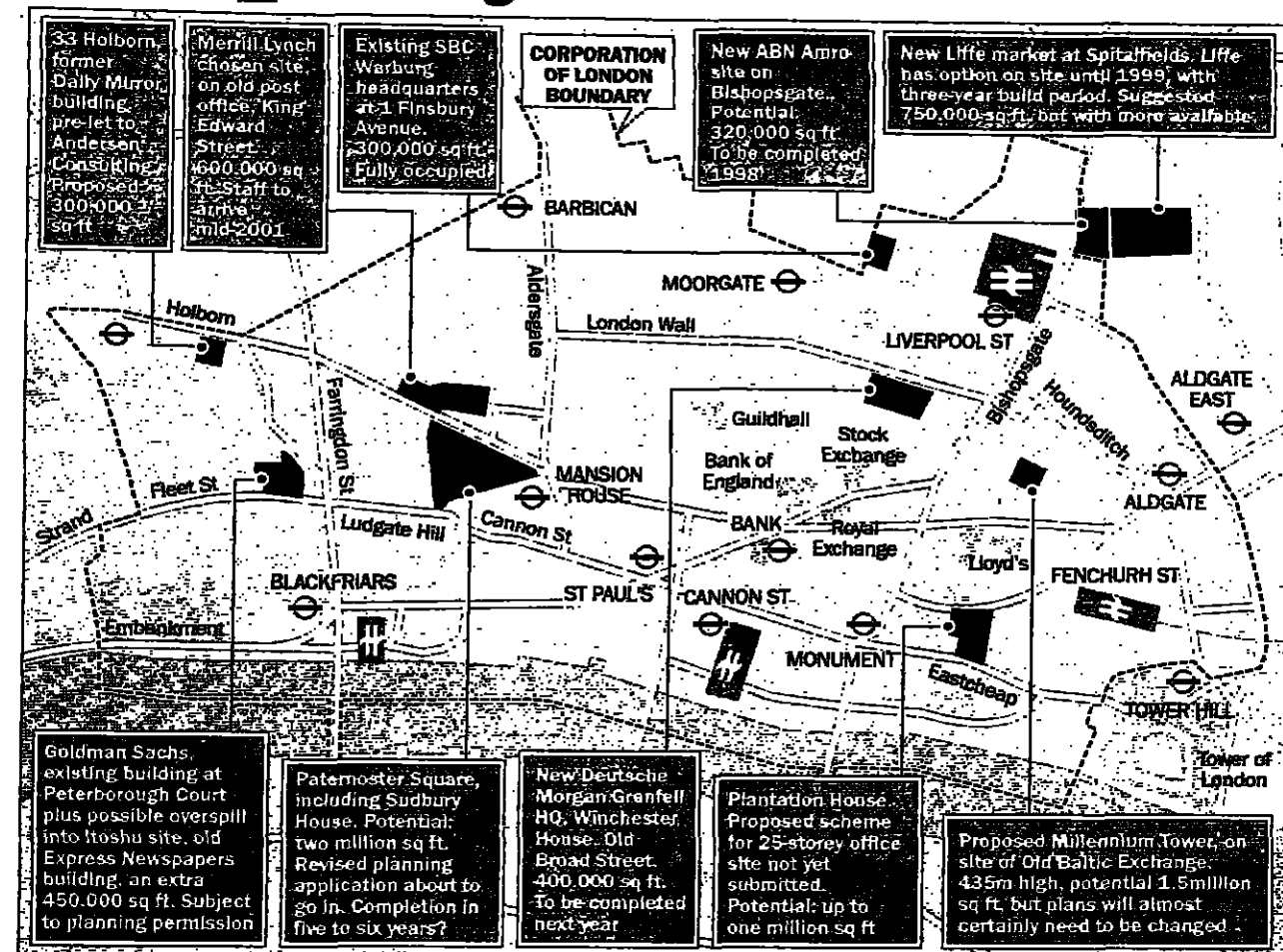
Not any old offices, though: these are big league players, and they want huge aircraft hangars, mega-sites of 300,000, 400,000, even a million square feet. (The average superstore where you do your weekly shopping covers 30,000 sq ft.) And there are at present probably only three sites in the City that could be occupied within a reasonable timespan.

Supply is about half of demand: a happy state of affairs for any business. But like farmers, for property developers it is always too hot or too cold, too wet or too dry. Serious under-supply sends rents soaring, but it also spurs speculative developers. By the time their buildings are complete, too many have been built and there is a glut. Rents fall, especially if this coincides with an economic downturn that persuades potential buyers that, far from expanding, they should be pulling in their horns again.

It is the classic commodity cycle, if property developments the size of small towns can be viewed as commodities. Scarcity prompts higher prices; they prompt increased production, which creates oversupply. Prices fall again. Production is cut, and scarcity returns.

This is exactly what happened in the City property market before the last recession, and in the property market as a whole. In the early 1990s City rents peaked at about £65 per sq ft; one big insurer actually paid £68, which probably marked the high water mark. By 1993 rents had fallen to £32.50, and have yet to climb back halfway towards their earlier peak.

One of those big buyers would have to pay £45 today, about the level in 1987 or 1988. There are sightings of the fabled £50 per sq ft, but



observers are sceptical; such figures, when examined more closely, tend to be deflated in real terms by deferred rents, discounts or other sweeteners.

We are in mid-cycle again, which suggests the cycle must peak one day, and then fall. Another measure is City vacancy rates, the proportion of buildings available if not actually empty. In mid-1992, not many months after that insurance group paid top dollar, vacancy rates were 18 per cent. They are now 7 per cent. This may represent five million sq ft of City office space looking for an occupier, but there is a difference now, and that is the lack of those mega-schemes that the big players need.

Peter Evans, research director, DTZ Debenham Thorpe, believes that if the boom-bust cycle has not actually been broken, it may have been significantly flattened. "We have got availability ratios very much higher than we had at the low point of the last cycle," he said. "But the fundamental point is that there is a clear polarisation between the availability of good quality, particularly large buildings and a surplus of poorer second-hand smaller units."

By contrast with those three

available mega-schemes of more than 100,000 sq ft each, there are in the City 400 or more individual sites of up to 3,000 sq ft to choose from. "Whilst development is picking up again," says Mr Evans, "if you look around the City, there aren't a huge number of cranes there. We're seeing more in the way of speculative developments, but the tendency has been, as a result of the badly burnt fingers of the late 1980s and early 90s, that they are more cautious."

So big City developments are not being started before an occupier is found. Merrill Lynch, the US investment bank, has this summer chosen new headquarters close to St Paul's Cathedral. WestDeutsche Landesbank, owner of Panmure Gordon, the broker, is looking to pre-let a site nearby, part of the huge Paternoster Square development that is moving ahead at last after a couple of decades of dithering and planning problems.

Merrill has, significantly, not only nailed down the rental it will pay in the first years of the new century beforehand but taken an equity stake in the venture. Others have bought freeholds, and will pay no rent.

They include the ABN Amro, the Dutch bank that owns the Hoare Govett, the broker, and the Life market, both of which are heading for Spitalfields for their new headquarters, even if Life, for tax reasons, merely has an option on the freehold. For developers, pre-lets may mean they lose out on future rental growth, but they ensure that the site will be occupied. They mean developers are reacting to demand today, and so may have difficulty fulfilling future needs. Likewise occupiers' needs can change even as the site is being built to their previous specifications.

Peter Bennett, deputy City surveyor at the Corporation of London, says the key moment in the current cycle came a few years ago when the second wave of outside buyers for City financial houses decided to make London their European base. Several, having located here, found that as business grew they needed more space. Goldman Sachs is looking to add another former print works, the old Express building in Fleet Street, to the one the American bank already occupies next door, former home of

The Telegraph. Swiss Bank Corporation bought SG Warburg, and is looking for more offices while expanding Warburg's existing headquarters.

Deutsche Bank bought Morgan Grenfell and moved much of its international trading business to London, so out-growing Morgan Grenfell's existing offices. And ABN Amro sought out the Spitalfields site, despite having Hoare Govett's Broadgate offices. Mr Bennett says: "The problem with pre-letting is one of timescale. It takes a minimum of two to three years to supply. You are asking the end-users to decide what their requirements will be in three years' time."

Smaller banks such as Schroders and Rothschilds have found new offices over the past few years. Big City solicitors have either occupied landmark sites or are looking for them. Even the insurance sector traditionally located at the east of the City is expanding, either because of mergers or the arrival of big US players.

Despite the odd exception — Paribas, the French bank, whose Wignore Street as its London base and recently announced a move to Mayfair, while Salomon Brothers

sits in some splendour over Victoria Station — the emphasis is firmly on the City. The arguments between the Corporation of London and Canary Wharf need not be rehearsed again, even if Mr Bennett says he spends most of his efforts persuading existing occupiers to stay in the City. But the City has one advantage over the West End: ownership of land in the latter is far more fragmented, making a large site harder to assemble. Large chunks of the City are still owned by the City Corporation.

The cost of renting in Canary Wharf is about half that in the Square Mile, taking rates into account, and the arrival of the Jubilee Line next year will be a big boost, putting the site within minutes of the hundreds of thousands of commuters using London Bridge and Waterloo.

Barclays de Zotte Wedd completed its relocation to Canary Wharf this summer. Newco, the new City regulator, is looking at a site there. Citibank is building a 560,000 sq ft headquarters for Britain and Credit Suisse First Boston is expanding into a new block next to its present premises.

But Colin Hargreaves, a City office partner at Healey & Baker, says further new buildings there will be restricted by the need to find pre-lets, because past difficulties preclude funds for entirely speculative building. "Canary Wharf is established and has the necessary critical mass, and it will continue to be an adjunct to the City market. But I don't think it's as much of a threat as it was when there were large voids, before BZW went down there."

He, too, is hopeful that the undersupply/oversupply cycle of the past may not necessarily recur. "We look like we are much better organised to provide space than we were at this time in the last cycle, but much more measured. We will see good rental growth but I don't think it will overheat."



ANTHONY HARRIS

Warren Buffett and the search for "value"

The news that Warren Buffett has spent \$2 billion on junk bonds shows, if nothing else, how hard life has become for value investors — those who, like Buffett, seek under-priced potential. This respectable strategy has in fact been the surest way to underperform in the great bull market just look at its leading British practitioners, M&G and PDM. Even JP Morgan in New York, which has reduced value investing to a computer science, has ceased reliably to outperform the indices.

The trouble is simply that in a mature bull market, virtually nothing is under-priced. Fashion rules, and the shares that make the running tend to be the most "overpriced". It is hardly surprising that, as disillusion follows disillusion, it is the value investors who argue most loudly that the whole market is riding for a crash. Buffett need not share this pessimism, because his portfolios have continued to perform. This is because, unlike his rivals, he is not an active trader. On the contrary, he buys seldom and holds for the very long term. His brilliant picks were made when the strategy still worked.

But what to buy now? With underpricing so hard to find these days, it seems that Buffett has decided to take a small punt (small, that is, by Buffett standards) in overpriced risk. The potential rewards are obvious: if all the companies in which Buffett has just invested survive long enough to honour their paper, he will quintuple his investment. Even if only two out of five survive he will, roughly, double his money. These huge premiums are, as it were, the negative price of risk: Buffett, it seems, likes the odds.

The risks in new junk bonds, known in Wall Street as 144 offerings, are nothing if not explicit. Bonds are offered by concerns whose current cash flow may not be enough to cover the interest, let alone any other outgoings: so part of the subscription is set aside in an "interest escrow account". In other words, interest is paid out of subscribed capital.

which sounds like a legalised version of a well-known financial con trick. Others may have no cash flow at all, and offer "payment in kind" (PIK), to the specialist: you get your coupon in more, apparently worthless, bonds. Of course, there is always the chance that they are not worthless.

But if you are tempted to rush in where the Sage of Omaha has trodden, be warned: it may already be too late (it usually is, where Buffett is concerned). Current Wall Street reports, monitored by Jim Grant of the *Interest Rate Observer*, complain that the appetite for high-yielding paper is now so keen that "investors are finding themselves faced with declining yields, weaker structures and less-quality borrowers", which sounds very like the bottom of the barrel. Yet it all happened before, as recently as 1989, and ended, more often than not, in tears. "Nobody remembers anything," Grant sighs.

So is true value now a thing of the past? Not necessarily. You could, for example, take a pretty low-risk punt on the possibility that Britain will not, after all, opt out of EMU, reflecting the Chancellor's private wish (though certainly not mine). Simply switch out of equities into gilts: bonds in other candidate countries such as Italy and Spain have been hugely rewarding. Or if you are still an equity man, you could try the great pre-crash market: Japan.

Japanese citizens are still selling out in disgust, which is off-putting: the economy is flat, and the banks have found new ways of going bust — lending in Thailand, for example. But the small company sector, which never joined in the boom, may prove the exception that proves the rule, according to Grant: you can still find cash-rich enterprises with robust profits, good specialist products and p/e ratios that look like London in the old days. Or rather let someone else find them: Henderson, Fidelity and Investor, to name but three, run Japanese small company funds. Good hunting.

Red alert

SNIFTER dogs down the sewers, divers in Victoria Harbour, a robot sent into the coffee shop of the Excelsior hotel to disarm a suspicious package. (It turned out to be a box of festive mooncakes.) Security arrangements for the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Hong Kong border on the paranoid. The party line is to blame the impending arrival of the new masters from Beijing. But there is another possible explanation.

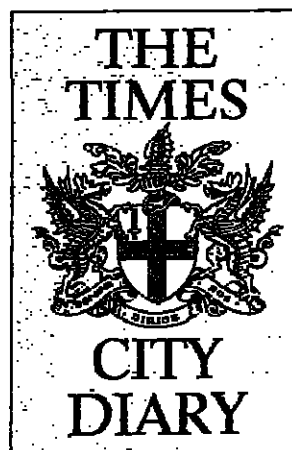
I am told that George Soros, so recently and charmingly



"Do you know which aisle the food is in?"

branded a "moron" by Mohamed Mahathir, Malaysia's Prime Minister, is worried about his own security. As indeed he might be after the damage his speculation may have done to some no doubt overvalued South-East Asian currencies. He is giving a speech on global integration on Sunday, but officials are keeping his whereabouts a secret. We don't think he is here but, when he is, we can't say so, said one.

DORLING KINDERSLEY has a reputation as a provider of some nifty books and computer products, but it is not exactly a corporate titan, shall we say. Indeed, its market worth, less than £200 million, would normally suggest little interest from the analysts. So why were there 30-odd teenage scribbles packed into the company's offices yesterday, hanging on every word of the preliminary statement, a turnout that would not disgrace a FTSE company? Does it have anything to do with DK's equal reputation for being free with its own products — yesterday's takeaway bag, including a couple of CD-Roms, would have retailed at £80? I trust such en-



thusiasm will be duly reflected in brokers' notes.

Cooke tribute

YESTERDAY was the memorial service for Stephen Cooke, the chief executive of Gerrard Vivian Gray, who died aged 47 on May 27, on the very day the broker completed the merger with Grieg Middleton which he worked so hard to bring about. It was held at St Mary Cornhill, and attended by a wide selection of the City's great and the good. Nick da Costa, an old schoolfriend, paid tribute to Cooke's ever-present sense of humour. As president of the union at Imperial College, London, where he was a student, Cooke once

defined his official duties as "getting to know as many female undergraduates in as short a time as possible".

Dialling out

UNFAIR to assume that everyone who quits Barclays de Zotte Wedd cannot face life at Canary Wharf, I know — one wonders how committed Barclays is to investment banking, and that must be pretty dispiriting. But the exodus continues. Two of the top-rated telecommunications team have been poached by Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, which has a track record for European telecoms floats.

Both Jonathan Lewis, 29, and Jane Bidmead, 24, have been at BZW since university. Says Jamie Stevenson, DKB's head of research: "I like analysts who are on their way up. People working their way up are the ones who make the biggest contribution." I point out to Jamie that our paths first crossed a couple of decades ago. But we are both too tactful to draw any conclusions.

Eyre time

IN ONE of the worst acts of French vandalism since the harrying of the North, the garlic-eaters want to dig up that cobbled street in Yorkshire that hosted a thousand Hovis

commercial. No, I know it is nothing of the sort, but feelings are running high in Haworth, because the village near Bradford is the former home of the Brontës. So the Brontë Society is objecting, and you tangle with that sort of heritage group at your peril.

Haworth is being cabled, requiring the removal and replacement of those historic cobbles. The company involved is Yorkshire Cable, which is owned by Compagnie Générale des Eaux, a fact that has gone largely unnoticed. The mood there is already bad enough: no unseemly demonstrations of chauvinism, I trust, once this becomes generally known.

MARTIN WALLER



Emily Brontë's home village is threatened by cable TV

IT face to face not shoulder to shoulder

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INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM, 3-5 MARCH 1998

Equities and gilts sharply higher

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
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100	98	BANKS				
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High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	98	BREWERY, PUBS & REST				
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High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
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High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	98	INSURANCE				
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High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	98	LEISURE & HOTELS				
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THE TIMES Portfolio

Check the numbers on your Portfolio card and find your eight stocks in the Portfolio panel below. In the column provided next to your eight shares enter the share movements as published on this page. Ignore fractions, i.e. enter 10.5 as 10.5. The symbol means no change. After listing the price changes of your eight shares, add them up to find your total which can be plus or minus. If your overall total matches exactly the points required for the daily dividend you win or share the £2,000 daily prize.

No	Company	Group	Gain
1	Woolwich	Banks	
2	Long Foreland	Oil & Gas	
3	St James's	Insurance	
4	Wickes	Engineering	
5	Wicks	Ref Gen	
6	Lavender	Sup Serv	
7	Peugeot	Oil & Gas	
8	Glynwed	Engineering	
9	GRE	Insurance	
10	Beitrix	Mining	
11	Asot Nurg	Healthcare	
12	Diagonal	Sup Serv	
13	Norfolk	Sup Serv	
14	Blackland	Banks	
15	Smiths Ind	Engineering	
16	Scott & New	Breweries	
17	Indochina	Distributors	
18	Wimpey G	Blid & Com	
19	Peapack	Media	
20	Therap Int	Pharmaceuticals	
21	GUS	Ref Gen	
22	Croda	Chemicals	
23	London & Man	Insurance	
24	Rubicon	Engineering	
25	Waste Recyc	Sup Serv	
26	Pentland	Textiles	
27	Clyde Blows	Engineering	
28	BSM	Sup Serv	
29	Harmon	Oil & Gas	
30	Oil & Gas	Oil & Gas	
31	Grand Met	Alc Bev	
32	BAA	Transport	
33	Morris Ashby	Engineering	
34	Polypipe	Blid Mats	
35	Smiths Ind	Pharmaceuticals	
36	Robert Wils	Sup Serv	
37	Delta	Electronic	
38	Mark Spence	Ref Gen	
39	Severn Trm	Water	
40	AB Food	Food Man	
41	Angus	Ref Gen	
42	Thistle Hols	Leisure	
43	Kwik Save	Ref Gen	
44	Boots	Ref Gen	

RETAILERS, GENERAL			
21%	1661 America	240	145
22%	1722 Aldes	3	419
23%	1730 Alford	3	20
24%	1739 Asda	66%	5
25%	1739 Asda	66%	5
26%	1739 Asda	66%	5
27%	1739 Asda	66%	5
28%	1739 Asda	66%	5
29%	1739 Asda	66%	5
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79%	1739 Asda	66%	5
80%	1739 Asda	66%	5
81%	1739 Asda	66%	5
82%	1739 Asda	66%	5
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84%	1739 Asda	66%	5
85%	1739 Asda	66%	5
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98%	1739 Asda	66%	5
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Mowlem looks forward to improving results

By PAUL DURMAN

JOHN MOWLEM, the construction company, and SGB Group, its scaffolding arm, are looking forward to improving results in the second half of this year as they start to reap the benefits from SGB's transformation into an independently quoted company.

In its first results since its June flotation, SGB reported a 10 per cent improvement in the underlying pre-tax profits of its continuing business to £6.6 million, on first-half sales slightly higher at £127.3 million. The company, which makes, hires and sells scaffolding and other access equip-

ment, actually made £7.2 million on sales of £151.2 million. However, this included a contribution from businesses transferred to John Mowlem and the benefit of a lower interest charge when it was wholly owned.

SGB, in which Mowlem retains a 51 per cent stake, was the biggest contributor to the construction group's underlying pre-tax profits of £9.5 million, a 79 per cent improvement on the same period last year. This ignores the £41 million cost to Mowlem of the SGB flotation. This and other exceptional costs pushed Mowlem to a pre-tax loss of £31.5 million (£5.3 million profit). John Gains, Mowlem's chief

executive, said the main construction business — responsible for £465 million of its £692 million of first-half turnover — was showing significant improvement. An attempt to concentrate on more profitable business helped the construction arm to return to the black with an operating profit of £1.7 million (£900,000 loss).

Mowlem is keen to develop its environmental services business, which made profits of £1.5 million (£1.3 million) on sales of just £11 million. The group has also set up a property maintenance business for customers. This forms part of the facilities services division, which made unchanged profits of £1.6 million on sales of £86

million. Mr Gains said he expected the progress made in the first half to be sustained into the second. As a sign of its confidence, Mowlem has lifted its interim dividend, which it restored only last year, from 1p to 1.5p a share. It will be paid on December 31.

SGB was helped by a strong performance from its international division, which increased operating profits 34 per cent to £3.9 million. The UK arm, SGB Youngman, rose from £3.7 million to £3.9 million. SGB is not paying an interim dividend.

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Call for freeze on gas-fired electricity

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL
CORRESPONDENT

THE coal industry yesterday made a new call to halt the building of gas-fired power stations as it lobbied the electricity regulator over the price of electricity produced by gas.

The Confederation of UK Coal Producers said gas station applications should be frozen pending investigation of the market. Investigation of a complaint to the European Commission about competition from gas in the electricity market and investigation of social and economic costs of gas-station generation.

There are 22 applications before the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to build gas-fired stations or to adapt ones using other fuel to take gas.

The producers' confederation said that coal contracts for 1996-97 cost 3.92p per kilowatt hour generated, compared with 4.10p for electricity generated from gas by independent power producers. Its figures are based on a report by the regulator.

Gerry Mousley, the confederation director-general, said: "This new evidence... fully justifies our call for a full independent review of the electricity market — a review which we are confident will enable coal to be an equal partner in the Government's commitment to develop an energy policy based on diversity, security and sustainability."

Separately, a DTI report on energy said that coal is facing an environmental challenge. John Bate, Energy Minister, said: "Coal-fired power stations have a conversion efficiency of some 40 per cent, while gas-fired stations with efficiencies up to 60 per cent are being developed."



Mark Torrance, left, Mark Getty and Jonathan Klein, the men behind the newly formed Getty Images

Getty snaps up supplier of images in £100m deal

By ERIC REGULY

GETTY Communications became the largest provider of stock commercial imagery yesterday with the £100 million purchase of PhotoDisc of Seattle, the top Internet supplier of photographs.

Getty, which is controlled by the Getty family trusts, Mark Getty, the son of John Paul II, and his partner Jonathan Klein, is acquiring PhotoDisc for 9.6 million new Getty shares and \$30 million (£18 million) in cash. At Getty's current Nasdaq trading price of about \$13.50 a share, the deal is valued at \$160 million.

PhotoDisc sells images in digital form on CD-Roms and through its Internet Web site. The images are bought by the

design community, Web site designers and the corporate communications industry. The library has about 50,000 images, all available on a non-exclusive, royalty-free basis, allowing frequent use for a one-time fee.

PhotoDisc was launched in 1992 by Mark Torrance, chairman and chief executive, and had sales of \$28 million and operating earnings of \$5 million in 1996. Turnover this year is expected to reach \$40 million and revenue from Web site sales is growing at 20 per cent a month.

Getty said that the PhotoDisc purchase would provide it with the technology to accelerate the development

of digital versions of its hard-copy libraries, which include Tony Stone Images, a supplier of contemporary stock photography, and Hulton Getty, the archival collection put together by the founder of *Picture Post* magazine.

The purchase of PhotoDisc will trigger a financial restructuring that will effectively transform Getty into an American company. Each two issued Class A and Class B Getty shares are to be exchanged for a single share in Getty Images, the newly merged company. Getty shareholders will own 69 per cent of Getty Images' share capital, while PhotoDisc's shareholders will hold the

rest. Mr Torrance will become an executive director.

The deal will see the Carlton Communications stake in Getty diluted from 10 per cent to about 6 per cent. Carlton paid £17.3 million for the stake last year and had an option to double it. But it now appears that the ITV company may even sell its shares.

Getty, which has grown exclusively through acquisitions, will make no large purchases after it absorbs PhotoDisc. Mr Klein, Getty's chief executive, said: "We've got what we need at the moment, though there are some small specialist libraries in the sport and science field that we may go after."

Delta aims to sell a third of businesses

By ADAM JONES

DELTA, the engineering and cables group, yesterday told analysts that it would like to sell a third of its businesses.

New restructuring plans leave no apparent role for the bulk of its cables and materials businesses and some analysts yesterday were predicting their disposal. Delta will be restructured around four long-term growth areas: electrical protection, including circuit-breakers; galvanizing; electrolytic manganese, a chemical compound used in batteries; and plumbing products.

The group told analysts that businesses accounting for 35 per cent of sales had been earmarked for divestment. Cables and materials account for about 33 per cent of sales.

Jon Scott-Maxwell, chief executive, would not confirm which businesses were candidates for sale. He added that there was no urgency as Delta could afford to further develop its other businesses through the existing strength of its balance sheet.

In the first six months of 1997, pre-tax profits rose to £33.1 million (£11.5 million). The 1996 figure had been dragged down by £11.1 million of exceptional charges and a £5.7 million writedown of copper assets. The 1997 interim profit includes a £3.3 million charge relating to the strength of sterling. Delta believes that this will rise to £6 million for the second half.

The cables division made a profit of £1.5 million (£5.8 million loss). Improvements were made in industrial services and electrical protection, although profits dropped in the plumbing division. Turnover fell from £494.5 million to £447.9 million.

An interim dividend of 4.5p per share (4.5p, 1996) will be paid as a foreign income dividend. Earnings per share rose from 1.8p to 1.3p.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

BAT puts £81m into Florida settlement

BROWN & WILLIAMSON TOBACCO, the BAT subsidiary, has paid \$130 million (£81 million) to the state of Florida as part of damages agreed between tobacco companies and the state last month. The first instalment of the \$11.6 billion Florida settlement will be used for anti-smoking education and for general healthcare. However, five lawyers hired by state officials three years ago are demanding \$1.25 billion in fees.

They are seeking a court order to confiscate \$750 million, the total of the first instalment. Judge Harold Cohen, of Palm Beach County Circuit, ruled that the money should be held in separate accounts, and gave the two sides 30 days to settle their differences. The agreement between the state and tobacco companies is believed to include \$12 million for out-of-pocket legal expenses and \$10 million for the state's legal team. Florida's settlement could be superseded by a \$386 billion national settlement that has yet to win congressional approval.

Alumasc lifts payout

ALUMASC, the engineering and construction products group, lifted pre-tax profits 5 per cent to £14.8 million in the year to June 30 on sales up 13 per cent to £172 million. Earnings rose 4.1 per cent to 25.3p while the dividend rises 6.3 per cent to 8.5p. John McCall, chairman, said action had been taken over problems that had held back the group's performance during the past year. He said: "The more radical action required to redirect those businesses whose underperformance is more deep-rooted should begin to yield benefits during the coming year."

Freepages expands

FREEPAGES, the communications services group, is to pay up to £125 million for a 30 per cent stake in Request (UK), a marketing and technology group, with an initial cash payment of £500,000. Further payments of £750,000 in cash will become payable if certain targets are reached by request within the next 120 days. Freepages said. In addition, it has been granted a call option to buy up to 30 per cent of the fully diluted share capital of Request at an agreed price of £65,000 for each 1 per cent of ordinary share capital not already owned by Freepages.

Exco advises caution

PROFITS at Exco, the wholesale securities broker, fell to £5.4 million from £12.3 million in the first half of 1997. The drop included £2.1 million spent on making 154 staff redundant, a £2 million currency hit and £2 million lost from discontinued businesses. Further cost-cutting measures included closure of Exco's office in Guernsey and a scaling-down of Hong Kong operations. Turnover fell from £113.7 million to £101.2 million. David Hubbard, chairman, advised "continued caution". The interim dividend is halved to 0.75p per share.

Scottish Radio offer

SCOTTISH Radio Holdings has made an offer to acquire the outstanding 99.2 per cent of Moray Firth Radio for 250p a share. The offer values Moray at £563,350. The company said a Moray shareholder with about 18.6 per cent of the current issued share capital had given an irrevocable undertaking to Scottish Radio to accept the offer. Scottish Radio said that it already owned 40.8 per cent of the issued share capital. The value of Moray's net assets as at September 30, 1996, its most recent financial year end, was £340,733.

Janice oilfield approved

KERR-MCGEE, the American oil giant, has been given approval to develop the Janice oilfield in the North Sea, 170 miles south-east of Aberdeen, containing an estimated 70 million barrels of recoverable oil. The oil will be processed on a converted floating production unit, then piped to a refinery at Teesside. Gas will also be sent by pipeline to the Judy platform near by. Production is due to start in the second half of next year and will peak at 55,000 barrels a day.

Lloyd's scheme viable

STACE BARR ANGERSTEIN (SBA) has won sufficient support to proceed with its conversion scheme aimed at allowing Lloyd's names to underwrite in the market with limited liability. At least 90 names offering £33 million in 1997 capacity have applied. It remains open to applicants until September 26. SBA is backed by Stace Barr, a members' agent and Lloyd's adviser, which is itself owned by Angerstein Underwriting Trust, the Lloyd's corporate capital vehicle.

Britax profits rise

SHARES in Britax, the car component and vehicle leasing group, rose 10p to 116.5p after the group reported pre-tax profits up 14.2 per cent, to £22.2 million, for the six months to June 30. Sales fell from £476 million to £382 million. Earnings per share rose 9.5 per cent, to 4.5p a share, out of which the interim dividend rises 10.4 per cent, to 0.85p, a share. It will be paid as a foreign income dividend. Britax sold its Bristol Street dealerships and Jessups Vehicle Contracts in March.

Baird's advance surprises City

By GEORGE SIVELL

SHARES in William Baird leapt 17p, to 191.5p, after the clothing designer and manufacturer announced pre-tax profits for the half year to June 30 more than doubled from £5.1 million to £11.6 million.

The results surprised the City and brokers upgraded full-year forecasts from £30 million to £32 million.

Proceeds from disposals cut borrowings to zero at June 30, from £23.8 million on December 31 and from £44.5 million at June 30 last year. The company says that having completed its disposal plans, it is now looking at potential bolt-on or fill-in acquisitions. It remains keen, however, to generate organic growth.

Baird has trailed through a list of potential brands for

acquisition in France, Germany and Italy and is particularly keen to find an acquisition with potential for overseas growth. The company, a Marks & Spencer supplier, is keen to follow its customer's overseas expansion drive.

Earnings per share rose from 2p to 6.7p and the interim dividend rises from 3.5p to 3.90p. Sales fell from £303.6 million to £283.7 million, although turnover in continuing businesses rose from £235.3 million to £245 million.

Sales to Marks & Spencer rose 6 per cent, to £94.3 million, with operating profits up 34 per cent, to £4.3 million.

Baird says that the outlook for the second half remains positive, and that order books are strong.

Oriflame in merger talks with rival

SHARES in Oriflame International, the cosmetics group, were suspended from the stock market yesterday when the company said it was in merger talks with its rival Oresa (Chris Ayres writes).

A merger would create a company with sales exceeding £230 million. Oresa sells cosmetics in Eastern Europe, whereas Oriflame concentrates on markets in Europe, South America, India and the Far East. A merger would result in six Oriflame shares being exchanged for each Oresa share, nearly doubling to 100 million the number of Oriflame shares in issue.

Oriflame said yesterday that both boards supported a merger, which would build on Oresa's success and allow Oriflame to continue expanding into emerging markets.

Forest valuation to top £31m after AIM float

By JASON NISSE

NOTTINGHAM FOREST, the football club that was relegated to the Nationwide First Division at the end of last season, is to be valued at £31.8 million when it floats on the Alternative Investment Market next month.

This is twice the amount paid for the club when it was taken over in March by an investor group led by Nigel Wray, the City financier who owns Saracens Rugby Club.

In spite of the uplift in value, Mr Wray and his partners — including Irving Scholar, who was censured over his role in the refinancing of Tottenham Hotspur, and Nick Leslau, who resigned last week as chief executive of Burford — are not making an immediate profit from the float, which prices



Van Hooijdonk: Dutch star

Forest shares at 70p each. Phil Soar, another member of the consortium, has become chief executive on £130,000 a year, which will become £150,000 if Forest is promoted to the Premiership.

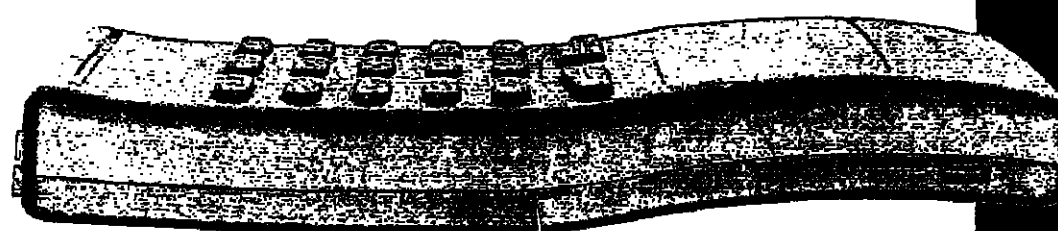
The group has also hired Duncan Reid from the Really Useful Group as finance director on a salary of £80,000 a year. The duo have been awarded share options worth £60,000.

Forest is raising £3.5 million in the float, though £500,000 of this will go to the flotation advisers, led by HSBC Investment Bank.

The club had a turnover of £14.4 million but made a loss of £10.3 million after transfer fees, which included the purchase from Celtic of Pierre van Hooijdonk, the Dutch international striker.

Nigel Wray has sold 900,000 shares in Singer & Friedlander, the merchant bank where he is a director, netting £1.33 million. Mr Wray is retaining 100,000 shares in the bank.

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What chance do three new musicals have? And (below, right) are the Lloyd Webbers of tomorrow getting a fair deal?

Three to get ready – so go, Cats, go

Has the mega-musical had its day? Let's hope so, the brains behind a trio of new productions tell Matt Wolf

Amid all the talk about new writing for the theatre, the musical rarely gets a look-in. But what about newcomers to a genre generally defined in London either by American imports or by the latest Andrew Lloyd Webber or Cameron Mackintosh extravaganza?

This month sees the arrival of three shows whose combined budgets would pay for a fraction of *Miss Saigon*. But the creators of *Enter the Guardsman*, *Maddie* and *Dorian* are all bravely going where *Always* and its like have failed in an effort to prove that fresh musical talent exists – if one only listens out for it.

Not, it must be said, that Lloyd Webber and Mackintosh are altogether absent from this trio of shows. *Enter the Guardsman* is the first Donmar production underwritten (to the tune of £130,000) by Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group, in much the same way as Mackintosh backed this season's earlier Donmar venture, *The Fix*.

Still, amid an environment dominated by these men, it can be difficult obtaining a hearing for the next generation. "It's just so hard to get new musicals shown," Keeling says. "The industry seems to have such a fear: it's the risk factor I've heard so often. The feeling is that if you're not Andrew Lloyd Webber, then they don't want to know, but then again if there isn't anybody but Lloyd Webber, there would never be any variety."

The whole 1980s thing of the mega-musical has inspired an awful lot of people to write them: the problem is just trying to get new work seen."

The history of *Maddie* bears Keeling out. For four years the show languished with one West End management, despite an encouraging 1991 workshop at the National Theatre Studio with Bonnie Langford as the ghostly Hollywood flapper now to be played by the American, Summer

Rognlie. (Glenn Close took the part in a poorly received 1985 film adapted from the same Jack Finney novel.) Then in March of last year a projected West End opening fell through when the co-producers, Apollo Leisure, pulled out.

Keeling and the producer Kenny Wax spent a year trawling the country, pitching the show to regional theatres. "We did the old Broadway thing of me selling the songs and Kenny telling the story," says Keeling – before Salisbury Playhouse said yes. After a successful tryout, Wax was off to New York to top up funding that was difficult to

kick it needed to head towards full production.

"There's nothing like a ratification of that sort," Adler says. "The competition even to get your piece heard is so fierce that, after a while, it doesn't matter how good you are. It matters who has seen you, who recommends you, who thinks you're good."

And yet, even if it juries like you, will audiences? Can smaller shows sustain a run? (The failure of the much-lauded *She Loves Me* several years back suggests not.)

Wax hopes *Maddie* will achieve "a respectable run" – which he defines as at least six months or even a year. Jeremy Sams, the director of *Guardsman*, thinks the appetite for mega-musicals "may be coming to an end, but only when people are writing smaller pieces that are fascinating. *Guardsman* is its own best advocate: it's not small in its subject-matter; in fact, it's quite epic."

But is there room for smaller shows unaccompanied by the hype that, Mackintosh says, goes down in London best? "There's all this bleating about getting away from the mega-musical," Mackintosh once told me, "but the moment anyone tries to be new, the critics slap you down. They want to shove the musical back into its song-and-dance box."

Sounding a note of optimism is the London-based Australian David Reeves, better known as this month's third new musical, *Dorian*, inspired by the Oscar Wilde story. "Perhaps the concept of the mega-musical has been exhausted now. I feel a move back to smaller things, and to product rather than images and spectacle. What the spectators did is draw huge attention to the musical, and now it can only benefit."

● *Enter the Guardsman* opens tomorrow at the Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 0JF (071-369 1732).

● *Maddie* previews from Monday and opens Sept 29 at the Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 0JF (071-494 5045).

● *Dorian* previews from Sept 25 and opens Sept 29 at the Arts, Great Newport Street, WC2 0JF (071-336 2132).

There is pressure to create these epic things – and also to be small?

come by in this country for a £475,000 production.

With *Enter the Guardsman*, the issue concerned the appropriate scale for this adaptation of Ferenc Molnár's 1910 play. *The Guardsman*, in North America, says Marion Adler, the show's Canadian lyricist, "the complaint was that our musical was too small. People were very interested, but they wanted it to be big, big, big. There is pressure to create these huge, large-chorused, exciting, enormous, sweeping, epic things. And then on the other hand also a certain pressure to be small."

Enter the Guardsman got its major boost from a rare source – it was chosen out of 266 entries as the International Musical of the Year; a prize of £40,000 accompanied the honour at the competition in Aarhus, Denmark. At last, a show that had done the American workshop circuit – "Everyone was up the gangplank," says Adler, whose husband Scott Wentworth wrote the book for the musical, "but no one was getting on board" – had received the



The producer of *Maddie* – starring Graham Bickley and Summer Rognlie – hopes for a "respectable" West End run: six months or even a year

... and the chorus line goes on and on

Simon Tait reports on the upgrading of the Vivian Ellis Awards for promising musicals

What exactly is the point of the Vivian Ellis Awards? After all, for more than a decade they have existed as a means of promoting the work of promising writers of musicals – but few, if any, household names have emerged from the process.

"Good question" said one of this year's judges, Jonathan Simon, and it is one that may get an answer tomorrow afternoon when the competition gets the experimental Andrew Lloyd Webber treatment in one of the West End's largest theatres. Her Majesty's home of *Phantom of the Opera*, and a professional cast including a former Phantom, Dave Willets.

Extracts from this year's five finalists will be performed end-to-end in the first half of the show, with the judges – Don Black, Nica Burns of Stoll Moss, Dan Crawford of the King's Head pub theatre in Islington, Sheridan Morley, Sir Tim Rice, Jeremy Sams and Simon – giving their deliberations in the second half.

Black is chairman of the Ellis panel and president of the Musical of the Year judges. "I always say we won't

find a *My Fair Lady*, and there aren't that many George Gershwin or Irving Berlin out there, but this is a way of finding them. But they still have a long way to go from this point. As Stephen Sondheim says, musicals aren't written, they're rewritten."

The Vivian Ellis Award was started by the Performing Right Society (PRS) to mark the 80th birthday of the man who created such Shaftesbury Avenue anthems as *This is my Lovely Day*. He died last year after a career which spanned most of the century. "He'd written three new songs just before he died, and called the day before he died with some amendments," says Crawford, his friend and collaborator, who directed Ellis's last show, *Spread a Little Happiness*.

Crawford had to ask whether, without Ellis, the awards should stop. That seemed likely when a previous venue, the Guildhall School of Music, announced itself unavailable this time,

and the PRS was unable to offer as much financial support as before. "We thought we owed it to Vivian to give it another chance," says Crawford. In the best West End tradition, the organisers decided not only that the show must go on, but that it should be enhanced.

So tomorrow five musicals will get the benefit of 23 professional performers, a professional musical director in Kate Young and a professional director of musicals, Hugh Woodbridge. And rather than mums, dads and tutors comprising the audience, tickets are on sale to the public. Perhaps even more important, producers – particularly young ones – are being invited.

"The Guildhall students were marvellous, but they were only students and their main concern was to project their own talents, not those of the writers," Woodbridge says. "We're giving the pieces the professional treatment they deserve so that we can properly display the authors' talents."

The shortlisted competitors don't doubt the relevance of an awards scheme in the name of a songwriter who died at 91. Richard Kates has two shows in the last five: one about Mae West, another about "living with AIDS, from the upside". Trained as an actor, he has already had success in his second career, writing a touring show for Su Pollard. "There are so few chances for my stuff to be displayed. This is about the only chance for a new musical to be seen," he says.

Ironically, this year's new-look Vivian Ellis Awards take place just as the first winner of the Musical of the Year Award, *Enter the Guardsman*, opens in the West End (see left). A year ago that won £40,000 for its creators, and the space to finish the work without having to worry about earning a living at the same time. The Ellis offers just £10,000. "It would be nice to have forty times as much, I suppose," says Kates. "But if a producer says he wants to put on one of my shows, don't worry. It will be ready in time."

● The Vivian Ellis Awards show is at Her Majesty's, Haymarket (071-494 5054) at 2pm tomorrow. All tickets £8.

THEATRE: A tart view of the early female actresses, and a gritty production of a Lorca classic

Weak case for women Family fatale

Until about a decade ago the "female wits" of Restoration England had been consigned to the lumber room of history, along with orange-sellers and full-bottomed wigs. Likewise, nothing much was known about the first women to act on the English stage, except that Nell Gwynn caught the King's eye and became the ancestress of a line of dukes.

The writers were recovered as part of the desire to bring women out of the darkness of past time, and now it is the turn, briefly, of the actresses. Brief because, since this is one of the Old Vic's so-called New Plays, April de Angelis's play will be given only eight performances, far fewer than when an earlier version toured the country four years ago.

Set within some sort of dream world, or a haunted theatre, perhaps, Liz Smith's ageless Doll Common licks her lips and mutters "This place used to be a playhouse" ominous words in a building with an uncertain future. Jo McInnes's Nell comes bouncing in, whether old or young at this moment would be hard to tell, and back we go to 1663.

The first English actresses were a part of the Restoration style, both consequence and harbinger, and the play indicates the fortunes of five of them as they exploit their newfound freedom of expression.

If they were lucky, as well as gutsy and single-minded, they could hack out a career for themselves, but they would do so almost invariably at the sufferance of men. Rachel Power's quick-tempered Mrs Marshall falls foul of an earl and fades out of the picture, for fear of being accused of

Playhouse Creatures
Old Vic

witchcraft. Saskia Reeves's Mrs Farley forfeits her career on becoming pregnant and ends in the gutter. Her fall is preceded by an attempted abortion, and when the long hat pin was waved in the air I shut my eyes.

The ups and downs of their careers offer glimpses into this unfamiliar world but the play is disappointingly bitty, even



Sheila Gish: "Donald Sinden in drag"

bewildering, sometimes untrue. There were only women in the Sphinx production of 1993, and the two men now brought into the cast, the playwrights Otway and Rochester, add so little that the effort seems hardly worthwhile. Stephen Noonan's Otway is made to reveal that his father was a transvestite, presumably meaning that he was an actor who played women's roles. It is not so important that the older Otway was nothing of the kind but that de Angelis does not use this detail to develop one of her central concerns, the replacement of boy actors by women.

McInnes is an appealingly roughish Nell, but the play's most interesting character is Mrs Betterton, played by Sheila Gish like a grand Donald Sinden in drag. Her subsequent regret for the days when, anonymously, she played the vigorous male roles of Iago and Prince Hal is not only an affecting moment but an illustration of how women's roles were limited at this period, on stage as in life. Lynne Parker's production is pleasant enough but the play gives less than the opportunity offered.

JEREMY KINGSTON

DEATH does funny things to families, as Lorca's seemingly tragic assault on patriarchy, patriarchy, sexual repression and the whole damned shooting match lays bare and spreadeagled on the otherwise spotless bedroom floor. This new production from self-proclaimed Glasgow iconoclast Raindog – the actor-based company founded by the now famous Robert Carlyle and Caroline Paterson, although now led by Stuart Davids – pulls no punches in expressing Lorca's intentions in their own gritty, passion-fuelled vernacular.

Opening with a spectacular extended tableau of ritual mourning against a backdrop of Catholic candles and blue neon crucifixes, we are soon sucked into the sticky lovesick sorority of the roost-ruling Bernarda and her five daughters. In this way, the matriarch is more Mother Fista than Mother Courage, having built a barren fortress to lock out a man's world as well as her own desire. But as the girls climb the walls with frustration and rivalry spills over into war, something's got to give.

Bold strokes abound from Davids, and his wonderful ensemble of Scottish actresses

The House of Bernarda Alba
Tramway, Glasgow

make for an eerily sensual claustrophobia that crashes and burns across Kenny Miller's opulent set. The cast – led by Barbara Rafferty as Bernarda – remains refreshingly irreverent, mining a rich vein of hitherto undiscovered levity. Only occasional flashes of unnecessary camp and histrionics mar things.

At its best, it succeeds in showing how love can turn to bitterness and hate if locked away for too long. It also marks the coming of age of a company previously bound up in free-form expressions.

It is the blood-red tableaux that leave you breathless though, and when youngest daughter Adela, played by Shirley Henderson as a feisty, unhealed bundle of hormones, staggers bleeding into life – and death you are left reeling by the force of expression as symbolic storm clouds finally burst. Love kills all right, in a production that doesn't mess about.

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A tonic for the spirits

DONALD COOPER



The impressive Rita Cullis (Senta) and Willard White (the Dutchman) in English National Opera's excellent production

Paul Daniel's music directorship of English National Opera started with a bang on Monday — literally, since the inclement weather that courses through Wagner's overture invaded the auditorium as well. No, not the Coliseum's famous leaky roof again, but an almighty clap of electronic thunder by which Daniel and his players resolutely declined to be upstaged: the thrilling, full-blooded play-

The Flying Dutchman
Coliseum

ing of the opening pages launched an evening in which musical values rode high.

It wasn't just the stormy stuff, although the whole third act, played in one long arc from the double-chorus right through to the ecstatic ending, held the audience breathless. As his recent *Tannhäuser* for Opera North indicated, Daniel is adept at covering up the one or two bald patches to be found in early Wagner, by keeping up momentum and by making the most of the almost naive lyricism of some of the music, rather than apologising for it. Above all, he and the singers throughout stressed the *legato*, the purely lyrical quality of the writing, and it was this that made the notoriously perilous (and long) love duet work, for once. There was no trace of the Bayreuth bark or the Eldridge shriek that have characterised too much Wagner singing of late. This was an outstandingly musical account of the score.

With so many of the singers taking their roles for the first time, there was an exhilarating freshness to the evening as well. Willard White's first Dutchman was an outstanding achievement: beauty of tone, of course, a wide range of dynamics from a half-voice that always projects through

crisp enunciation of the words to an enveloping *forte* and an Italianate warmth and breadth of phrase in long, lyrical lines. Rita Cullis's Senta was just as impressive, exploiting one of her strongest suits, her rock-steady, gleaming soprano. She showed no fear tackling all those exposed, high-living lines, indeed seemed to relish them.

Erik is potentially one of the most ungrateful of all tenor

roles, but with the golden tone and sense of musical line common to all the soloists, David Rendall turned him into much more than the usual archetypal whinger. Stephen Richardson (Daland), John Hudson (Siegmund), Catherine Savory (a striking Mary) and the whole cast took great care to project David Pountney's faithful translation. The augmented chorus was on top form, with the

amplification of the ghost crew better managed than I have ever heard it.

Stein Winge's direction is largely traditional; I liked the Dutchman appealing to Daland's aviar by dressing him up as Ibsen's Mountain King, although Winge's view of the Norwegian maidens as terminally skittish — much whooping and merry laughter — might be considered a slur on the nation's womanhood.

RODNEY MILNES

Maturity no barrier

Alma
Grand Theatre

PHILIP PROWSE's production of *Alma* — which is set, by all appearances, in an exotic, late 19th-century furnishing shop on the Avenue d'Opéra — is not the most distinguishing item in Opera North's repertoire. So in choosing after all these years to revive it at the start of a new season, with its longstanding choreographic problems still unsolved, the company must have felt that it had special casting to offer. In a sense, it has.

By ordinary standards, the soprano engaged to sing Alma might have been considered too old even when the production was new. It is now, with Josephine Barrow, however, ordinary standards do not apply. It might be true that in the first two acts she looks out of place and ill-equipped, except by shrewdness and experience, to withstand the rivalry of Sally

Burgess's radiantly healthy Anneris. But in the half light of the Nile scene, although it was still difficult to accept her as the daughter of Jonathan Summerson's impressively brutish Anneris, the years slipped away. They stayed away to the end.

The transformation was largely a matter of self-belief, of confidence inspired, surely, by the remarkable quality of her singing up to that point. The voice is no less alluring than it ever was. If she has to push the lower register a little, the sound above that is fresh and the line is shaped by an immaculate technique. The top C in *O patria mia* proved to be just beyond her reach, but she produced a nicely floated B flat to make up for it later. Scarcely challenged by heroic qualities in Edmund Barham's inexpressive Radames, she is able to sing well within herself and take few risks.

Fortunately in the circumstances, Giuliano Carella, who is conducting for the first time in this company, applies no excessive pressure. He takes a pragmatic view of his responsibilities, capitalising on such positive assets as Clive Bayley's stony Ramfis and Sally Burgess's voluptuously passionate Anneris without over-exposing weaknesses elsewhere.

GERALD LARNER

First from Australia

Don John of Austria
Spitalfields

HE WAS AN Australian composer of Polish-Jewish descent and English birth, a philanderer, friend of Byron, spy for William IV, the first to write an Australian opera, and one of the first to die under Sydney's trans. With a biography like that, Isaac Nathan (1790-1864) can be excused his uninspiring music, and indeed the audience attending the British premiere of his *Don John of Austria* seemed happy to show indulgence.

Don John was the main attraction of the "Opera from Oz" festival at Spitalfields Market Opera. Premiered in Sydney in 1847, it occupies a special place in Australian music as the first opera to have been completely written Down Under. But it is really a singspiel, with emphasis on the *spiel*. Only the vocal score survives, and *Don John* has been newly orchestrated by its composer's great-great-grand-

son — who fortunately happens to be Sir Charles Mackerras. This was truly a family affair: the music was directed with vigour by Mackerras's nephew, Alexander Briger.

Mackerras's orchestration is vigorous and colourful. But for any future performances Mackerras might consider wielding the scissors: the piece is far too long to sustain the flimsy plot. Truncated somewhat, the work could be of more than academic interest, and it might go down well in some of the jewel-box Victorian theatres surviving in Australia.

It is hard to know whether the plot, about the love of Philip II of Spain's two sons for the same woman, a Jewish hiding from the Inquisition, would have seemed stronger in a different production. But Philip Parr's semi-concert staging dodged the issue of whether the work has any theatricality by giving each singer an actor-double. The tenor Barry Ryan sang Don John in a constant forte, and Anne-Maree McDonald revealed an unyielding soprano as the heroine. The baritone Lucas De Jong was more flexible as Philip. John Fitzgerald-Jay led the actors as a good Don John, but some of his colleagues came from the Blackadder School of Acting.

JOHN ALLISON

LONDON

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TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargre

ELSEWHERE

CARDIFF The BBC National Orchestra of Wales with the soprano Rebecca Evans and conductor Gert Llewellyn hosts three nights of televised concertos which mix traditional and modern classics. Among the guests are the cellist Julian Lloyd Webber and the Harlow Ensemble.

ST DAVID'S HALL The Hayes (01222 878444). Tonight-Fri, 7.30pm. £

NEWCASTLE First week here of the Royal Shakespeare Company's five-week residency. Tonight's audience have a choice between Matthew Ward's production of *Hamlet*, Michael Boyd's production of *Thomas Kyd's The Spanish Tragedy*, and the medieval morality play *Eyewitness*, directed by Kathryn Hunter and Marianne Elliott.

HARROGATE The Royal, 100 Grey Street (0181-232 2061) and *Tragedy*: Playhouse, Haymarket (0181-232 5151). Both tonight-Sat, 7.15pm, mat, tomorrow, Sat, and Tue, 2pm.

EVERYMAN Gaiety Theatre, Haymarket (0181-232 5151). Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm, mat, tomorrow, Sat, and Tue, 2.30pm.

LIVERPOOL The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra under its new conductor Peter Altrichter continues the new season with *Melissa Smetana's* patriotic mass-piece celebrating the legends and landscapes of Bohemia.

PHILHARMONIC HALL Hope Street (0151-709 3789). Tonight, 7.30pm.

WORKING Leading force in contemporary dance, the Rambert Dance Company is in town with a programme featuring three works by artistic director Christopher Bruce: *Shaman*, *Swimming* and *Revolutions*.

NEW VICTORIA THEATRE The Playcocks Arts Centre (0463 761144). Tonight-tomorrow, 8pm. £

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican Don McCall (0171-638 8891). **Chris Beckett** *Mural* (0171-638 8891). **Curry** *Gallery* (0171-638 8891).

Inden Temple Sculpture (0171-438 0007). **Mad** *Singer and Priest* (0171-438 0007). **Monday** *Times Watercolour* (0171-438 0007).

Exhibition 1997 (0171-930 8844). **Exhibition 1997** (0171-930 8844). **Exhibition 1997** (0171-930 8844).

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Ups and downs with Wagner and Bayreuth

In the second extract from the new book *Solti on Solti*, the late conductor calls for an end to the *Ring* - because it is uncastable

Wagner has been one of the central figures in my musical life. Today we tend to look too much into the psychological motivation and character defects of the great composers, at the expense of really listening to the music. I am not interested in Wagner's political or philosophical ideas, or his betrayal of friends, including his father-in-law, Franz Listz. What interests me is the creation of his music: for example, the love motif of *Tristan*, the miracle and completeness of the first four bars, now regarded as the epitome of love and beauty. To me, anybody who can create such beauty, whether he be half-Jewish, anti-Semitic, revolutionary, liberal or royalist, is first and foremost a musical genius and will remain so as long as our civilisation lasts.

The *Flying Dutchman* is undeniably a work of genius, and I hope that I won't shock dyed-in-the-wool Wagnerites if I admit that I prefer it to its two successors, *Tannhäuser* and *Lohengrin*. Although the *Dutchman* as a whole is not as great as the other two, it has moments of pure genius, such as the Dutchman's monologue and Senta's ballad. The *Dutchman*'s casting problems are similar to those of Wagner's later operas: it was conceived for big voices that could carry over a big orchestra. The Dutchman himself and Senta are the most difficult roles, thus the hardest to cast. Birgit Nilsson once told me, "Senta is too difficult for me. I don't sing it." That surely is comment enough, when it comes from a singer who had a most astonishing vocal technique and range.

During the summer of 1983, I conducted the *Ring* at Bayreuth, in the festival theatre that Wagner himself had created and in which most of the great Wagner conductors had worked. Performing at Bayreuth ought to have been a particularly gratifying experience, but in the end it caused me endless suffering.

Since its opening in 1876, the festival has always been run by members of the Wagner family: first, the master himself; then his widow, Cosima, followed by their son, Siegfried, and then the son's British-born widow, Winifred, who was a friend and supporter of Hitler. After the war, Winifred was succeeded by her sons, Wieland and Wolfgang. Wieland, a brilliant man, died prematurely in 1966, and Wolfgang, the younger brother, assumed control by himself. He has considerable administrative ability,

but his artistic talent is not equal to the task. The basic problem at Bayreuth was that the festival's musical standards were low because there was not enough money to pay for stars. For some years, the festival's administrators had been able to engage good East German musicians at relatively low rates: the players would come to West Germany, eat decently, buy clothes, and return home having been paid in hard currency. Then Erich Honecker, the East German leader, toughened exit restrictions and put an end to what had been a mutually beneficial procedure. As a result, by 1983 the Bayreuth orchestra was fundamentally West German. But,

“The Wagner Festival has outlived its time. New thinking is needed”

because they could not afford the best West German musicians, the orchestra had become decidedly second-class.

My biggest problem, however, was casting. Twenty years earlier, when I recorded the *Ring*, I had had Nilsson, Hotter and Windgassen at my disposal. The singers available to me in 1983 were not in the same league. But the main difficulty was with Reiner Goldberg, whom I had engaged to sing Siegfried. I had auditioned him first at Covent Garden and then in the Bayreuth Festspielhaus, and both times I had said to myself: "This is the voice. Not since Lauritz Melchior has there been such a natural Heldentenor."

But what I did not know about Goldberg was that he was unable to master text. At the first stage rehearsals he was vocally magnificent, just as I had hoped, but then he became frightened and shrank away to nothing. During the dress rehearsal he was afraid to look at me. He kept turning away from me and from the audience, hoping that no one would notice that he did not know the words. There was nothing to be done: we had to replace him.

At my suggestion, Peter Hall staged the entire *Ring* that year. I admired Wieland Wagner's abstract

productions, but I felt that it was time to do something different. I thought it would be interesting to have a modernised, naturalistic production, one that would keep to the spirit of Wagner's instructions without being ridiculously literal. Peter and William Dudley, the designers, created a fine production, but there were many technical problems. The stage crew was made up largely of Czechs who did not understand German well, let alone English, and Peter and Bill had considerable difficulty in communicating with them. This slowed down the staging process, and even at the performances there were ludicrous technical problems. In one of the *Götterdämmerung* performances, for instance, the curtain went up late at the beginning of the second act, and the words "Schlafst du, Hagen, mein Sohn?" ("Are you sleeping, Hagen, my son?") were sung from behind the curtain.

Nevertheless, the main problem remained the singers. It is possible to cast *Meistersinger*, *Tristan* and *Parsifal* these days, although with difficulty, and you can probably cast *The Flying Dutchman*, *Tannhäuser* and *Lohengrin*, but you cannot cast the *Ring*.

I am not nostalgic about the old days. Generally speaking, Mozart operas are sung better today than in previous generations, and many works by Verdi, Puccini and others can be cast better than ever. Where, three generations ago, was there a tenor with Domingo's versatility, musicality and intelligence? But with respect to the *Ring*, there is no dramatic soprano capable of singing Brünnhilde, no Heldentenor capable of singing Siegfried, and no Wagner bass-baritone capable of singing Wotan as the parts should be sung.

What, then, should Wolfgang Wagner do? Close the Festspielhaus? On the contrary, he ought to open it further. Wagner intended it as a centre not only for his own works but for German opera in general. Why not perform Weber's operas, Strauss's operas, Henze's operas, Pfitzner's *Palestrina*, Hindemith's *Mais der Maler*? Abolish Wagnerism as a religion and let some fresh air into the theatre, as Wagner wanted. The Wagner Festival as such has outlived its time and new thinking is needed.

● Extracted from *Solti on Solti*, published by Chatto & Windus. Tomorrow: Encounters with Richard Strauss



Sir Georg Solti: "I am not interested in Wagner's politics. Anybody who can create such beauty is a genius"

Second tilt at fame

AVIV GEFFEN is the voice of Jewish youth, the brightest star in Israel since the one that shone above the stable. His fame is built not only on half a dozen platinum albums, but also on the emotional status of having been the last man to be embraced by Yitzhak Rabin before the Israeli Prime Minister was assassinated at a peace concert Geffen was headlining in November, 1995.

The murder happened before Geffen's very eyes and it turned him into an outspoken opponent of Jewish fundamentalism. The influence of his liberal views on young Israelis made him many political enemies and he received several death threats. After being stoned off stage at a concert earlier this summer Geffen was forced to flee to

WORLD MUSIC
Aviv Geffen
Borderline, WC2

London, where he is now attempting to reinvent himself for a new audience.

His first big British gig showed how far he has come. Earlier this year I saw him play in Israel to an audience of 10,000, mostly screaming teenage girls. Dressed in leather and heavily made up — a cross between Prince and Michael Jackson — he delivered a set full of melodramatic gestures and grandiloquent songs, all in Hebrew. It was highly professional, totally attuned to Israeli tastes, but very dated. One wondered how he would translate to a more sophisticated market.

This week we had the answer when, without make-up and with a new band, he unveiled his first English-language compositions. The heavy rock riffs are still there, but there is a stronger melodic sense and a more mature stance to songs such as *Change and Alone*, while the menacing edge to *Here They Come* and gentleness of *Coffee* show a growing versatility.

In his desire to win over a new audience, he is too eager to sound like a standard British rock band when a stronger flavour of his own roots would better allow him to establish his style. But he has made bold progress, and anyone who has enjoyed all the trappings of superstardom and is prepared to start again at the bottom deserves to succeed. The large number of record label executives in the audience suggests he soon will.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

Maximum use of minimalism

JOHN METCAL'S *Vale of Glamorgan Festival*, commendably devoted to living composers, inclines towards music of a minimalist persuasion. Fortunately, that genre is broad enough to embrace a variety of approaches, some making fruitful use of minimalist procedures alongside more conventional developmental processes. John Adams, for example, has evolved

a more complex and engaging melodic and harmonic language in recent years, and his Violin Concerto was the most impressive piece of the concert given by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Grant Llewellyn. The soloist, here the accomplished American Kurt Niskanen, is kept busy throughout. In the first movement, he spins an endlessly inventive line over an

CONCERT

BBCNOW/
Llewellyn
Cardiff

agile pizzicato string accompaniment, punctuated by percussion, brass and woodwind.

Both here, and in the second-movement chaconne, where the soloist's soaring cantilena again dominates the texture, a little more light and shade in the orchestral detail would have enhanced its effect. But all credit to Llewellyn for keeping his forces together, not least in the toccata-like finale and exciting climax.

Works by Graham Fitkin typically rejoice in pithy monosyllabic titles like *Sub* or *Cud*. The polysyllabic title, *Agnostic*, of his new Clarinet Concerto — a festival commission receiving its world premiere — is not the only surprise. For the most part,

Fitkin eschews aggressive hammering rhythms in favour of a mobile accompaniment supporting arabesques on the solo clarinet — admirably played by David Campbell. There are still a couple of ungratefully percussive passages, but at least they bring a timbral contrast to an otherwise little varied single-movement structure.

The title reflects the sea of uncertainty in which Fitkin feels modern man is floundering. The work itself reflects that confusion, but it is depressing to witness the lack of vision, among so many of today's creative artists.

The eclectic idiom of Charlie Barber's *Shut Up and Dance* — African and Brazilian rhythms meet Indonesian gamelan — at first grates. But about halfway through, the music acquires an irresistible momentum and there seems no alternative but to obey.

BARRY MILLINGTON

WITH the cult Manchester band New Order apparently on permanent sabbatical, their bass guitarist Peter Hook launched his new band, Monaco, earlier this year. The grizzled 41-year-old rock veteran, who achieved tabloid notoriety with his stormy breakup with Caroline Aherne of *Mrs Merton Show* fame, elected to blend New Order's sleek electronic pop with the more traditional, guitar-based songwriting of Monaco's lead vocalist David Potts. The result has been a string of likeable chart hits and a modestly successful debut album, *Music For Pleasure*.

But critical reaction to Monaco has been fiercely divided. Some heartily welcome the revival of New Order's trademark musical style, no-

Allotment rocker loses the plot

There were odd moments of ragged glory, including the roaring hymn to heartbreak that is the band's current single, *Shine*, and the expansive singalong anthem *Billy Bones*. But even these were delivered in a clumsy and sluggish manner that did scant justice to the finely

drawn contours of the studio blueprints. Throughout the show, Hook gave the impression of a middle-aged man who would rather be tending his allotment than striking his half-hearted rock god poses.

Ultimately, it was this apparent indifference that made this show so disappointing.

For the final encore, Hook delivered a ramshackle karaoke update of *Failures*, an ancient relic from his apprenticeship in the late Seventies post-punk legends Joy Division. Such vulgar cabaret turns at least display a healthy irreverence towards the bass player's over-mythologised past, but they still do not excuse his band's generally lacklustre set.

Monaco's crafted pop songs deserve better treatment than this — and so do their fans.

STEPHEN DALTON

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CHANGING TIMES

POP
Monaco
Wolverhampton

tably Hook's groundbreaking use of his six-string bass guitar as a lead instrument. But others argue that he is cheapening his own legacy by recycling it so blatantly.

His signature melodic bass lines still packed an emotional punch at Monaco's thinly-attended show at the Wulfrun Hall in Wolverhampton on Monday, even though his playing was frequently sloppy and the rest of the band seemed under-rehearsed. The normally reliable Potts struggled manfully to stay in key while Hook bludgeoned away at his long-suffering instrument.

Fortunately, much of Monaco's repertoire is built around keyboards and drum machines, so songs like the disco-tinged *Sweet Lips* were largely unscathed by the band's lack of focus. Hook took over vocal duties from Potts for *What Do You Want From Me?*, his rumbling baritone adding a much-needed dramatic frisson. Even so, excitement levels remained low and the band scarcely rose above workmanlike form.

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up to £40,000
This is a fantastic senior PA role involving lots of the exciting, fast paced and varied work of a senior PA. You will be responsible for a variety of tasks including: managing the PA's diary, organising travel, liaising with clients, and many others. If you are a professional, who are looking for top career opportunities, and a warm, caring service, that puts you first. Shortlisted would be great. If you are not, there's a big demand. So why don't you take the initiative and call us now.
18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

Executive Receptionists.
Exceptional Hourly Rate.
Our prestigious corporate client based in the West End requires professional receptionists for a minimum of 6 months contract. You will need to have extensive experience of busy front line reception areas, the ability to provide a high level of customer service and basic keyboard skills. This position offers attractive benefits including clothing allowance, holiday pay and use of company gym. So if you are well presented, with the relevant skills and experience please contact:
Sandrine Clay 0171 344 1408 or Victoria Corner 0171 344 1407 at Tate Appointments.
Web: http://www.tate.co.uk

Secretaries
Flexible, pro-active and multi skilled individuals are sought on behalf of our client, a major Blue Chip company, for its locations at London, Waterloo and Bedford Lakes. You will play an active part in an international business, coordinating senior managers, and managing challenging travel and diary arrangements whilst maintaining a sense of humour. 3 to 4 years secretarial experience is required. You can look forward to an attractive salary and benefits together with full on-going training and support.
For further information on these great opportunities, please fax your CV or contact Harpal Bhambra (Waterloo) on 0171 202 3423, Fax: 0171 202 5904; Anne Main (Bedford) 0181 818 4830, Fax: 0181 818 5426.
MANPOWER

CALLING ALL LEGAL EAGLES
Up to £21K + Superb Bens
Boy, are you lucky if you have solid legal secretarial experience and are open to be tempted away from your current job. We have multiple vacancies for experienced secretaries, with prestigious, international companies who know how to treat professional team players. Their benefits can't be beaten.
MOVE INTO MEDIA - £17K + Bens
We are currently interviewing for a top Corporate and Financial PR Consultancy based in the West End, who are keen to recruit professional secretaries with 2-3 years experience, 50wpm typing and knowledge of Word for Windows. This really is your chance - don't blow it!
PERSONNEL ASSISTANT - FINANCE
Up to £22K + Good Banking Bens
Do you have 2-3 years experience as an HR Administrator? If you have good secretarial skills including MS Office, are educated to A level standard and you are available immediately, this could be for you. For an immediate interview call now.

PAN EUROPEAN RECRUITMENT
Directors PA
to 24K - 510% bonus + gym
US company in prestigious location. Working predominantly for a dynamic, international and charming female Director. 60% organisation of personal & business life, including jet travel, restaurants, parties shopping at Tiffani's 40% supporting senior management. Must be well groomed, a resourceful & definitely a team player!
Call Tracey
Harriet Gabb
TEL: 0171 828 3838
FAX: 0171 828 3888

NO FUSS, NO HASSLE JUST WORK!
What do you want? Constant work, good rates of pay, Temp Controllers who will listen to you when you discuss your availability and a hassle free service which pays your wages direct into your bank account. Gimmicks are lovely - hard cash is better!
IMMEDIATE SHORTHAND ASSIGNMENTS (50wpm)
• Director's Secretary (Property) 3 weeks
• Director's Secretary (Personnel) Temp to perm
• Senior Secretary (CEO) indefinite
IMMEDIATE AUDIO ASSIGNMENTS (50 wpm)
• Director's Secretary (Stockbroking) indefinite
• Director's Secretary (Corporate Finance) 4 weeks
• Manager's Secretary (Company Secretariat) 2/4 weeks
If you are aged 18-40, have good MS Office (or advanced WordPerfect 5.1) excellent audio and, if possible, shorthand skills - do yourself a favour, CALL THE BEST IN TOWN!

RECRUITMENT COMPANY
5 GARRICK STREET W1C 9AR
Tel: 0171 734 8484
Fax: 0171 734 8501

BURSAR'S ASSISTANT
Salary £15,135 c£ weeks holiday
We are looking for a mature and confident person to fill the position of Bursar's Assistant.
The job is extremely varied and flexibility is required. You should have some accountancy experience and must have a high level of computer literacy, ideally with Wordperfect, Sun Accounts and Lotus 1-2-3. You will need to have a proactive and methodical approach to work, be able to remain calm under pressure and you should have high level communication skills.
Please send your CV together with a full letter of application before 25 September to:
The Bursar, The Royal Ballet School, 155 Talgarth Road, London W14 9DE.

ASSISTANT TO BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TEAM
Salary £18,000
We require an assistant to the Business Development team to join our dynamic marketing services company. Responsibilities will include producing sales reports and forecasts, maintaining accounts, administrative and financial records, preparing and presenting proposals and presentations.
This is a fast paced, varied role related to an outgoing individual with a sound numerical background and excellent administration skills. Proficiency in all Microsoft Suite applications essential: accounts payable (50 plus wpm) and a ability to prioritise and work well under pressure. Please write including your CV to:
Ms. Mary, HR
DATA by Design
Barnes, Floor
Barnes House
16 Duncannon Place
London W2 2PZ
In strictest confidence

c£25,000 Personal Secretary
Wealthy international businessman needs a personal secretary/assistant to organise him. This is a high profile, multi-faceted role in which you will be relied on to understand & anticipate your boss's varied needs, take control of the day-to-day running of his office & liaise at the highest levels on his behalf. You will be ultra professional, discreet & diplomatic & enjoy the challenge of coping on your own in a very demanding environment where no two days are the same. 50 typing.
0171-831-1220

EXPERIENCED LEGAL SECRETARY
Required for small busy practice in Holborn. Must have sound experience of property work and WPM 5.1 £20,000 plus. Call 0171 408 8985 or Fax CV 0171 405 2815

Bright & Lively RECEPTIONIST SECRETARY
Able to work under pressure needed for BLUE CHIP Physiotherapy Practice. NCEP/PHONES/ADMIN/50 WPM £16,000 p.a. Please fax CV to Herta Part on (0171) 220 7554 or phone Herta on (0171) 727 085.

BABYSITTERS WANTED
Spare time day or evening work, during and after school. Must be reliable, honest, and have child care experience and references essential. Childminders 0171 487 4578 (leg).

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Outstanding opportunities for outstanding couples in the French and Swiss Alps.
The Ski Company, undisputed leader in luxury skiing holidays, is looking for a limited number of outstanding couples to manage its five star chalets in the Alps, Winter and Summer.
For the right people we offer an exceptional opportunity for career advancement and your reward experience within the framework of a young successful and expanding company. You round experience with the framework of a young successful and expanding company. You round experience with the framework of a young successful and expanding company. You round experience with the framework of a young successful and expanding company.
You will preferably be aged between 25 and 40, probably with the ambition of running your own business in the future. One of you must have excellent cooking skills (not necessarily professional) and one should speak either French or German. You must be enthusiastic, outgoing, hospitable and generous with a strong sense of professional pride. For a brochure and application form please write, enclosing your CV, to Tony Elliott, The Ski Company, Stone Square House, Holbein Place, London SW1W 8NS.

HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR
££22,000
A pro-active team in International Bank, City area are seeking a co-ordinator with confidence and energy to respond to management requirements and day to day challenges of a busy personnel department. Preference will be given to candidates with recruitment experience combined with diplomacy and excellent communication skills.
For further details contact Kathy Little
Tel: 0171 581 8813 Fax: 0171 581 8810
16 St Helens Place, London, EC3A 6DP
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BANKING AND SECRETARIAL RECRUITMENT

SECRETARY TO COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR-RENTS PARK
Salary: to £17,908 + STL + Subsidised Car/ten 9am-5pm.
Trade Association near Baker Street requires an experienced, well organised Senior Secretary to provide high quality secretarial and administrative support to the commercial Director and his assistant.
You will need a wide range of first class skills including Audio and WPM speeds of 50wpm. Knowledge of WPM or Wordperfect 5.1 essential. Pagespeed 5.0 desirable.
Please send CV with covering letter to:
Miss F. France, Dairy Industry Federation, 19 Cornwell Terrace, London NW1 4GP.
Closing Date 28th September 1997
NO AGENCIES PLEASE

YOUNG PA/OFFICE MANAGER
Team player for small lively West End Office. Busy, varied role including press reading, marketing, liaising with clients, organising appointments and secretarial support (50-60wpm typing) to young MD. Would suit a recent graduate with 6 months' office experience. c£13-15,000
Please call Martine Dwyer
47 New Bond St, London W1Y 9HA
Tel: 0171-493 8824 Fax: 0171-493 7161
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

GRAPHIC DESIGN CONSULTANCY
Requires organised, pro-active, well-spoken Secretary. Apple Mac/Word 6/Amigo experience.
London NW1 location.
Please fax CV to 0171 706 4730

Career in PR
Excellent Salary!
Our client needs a bright, motivated Executive to join busy PR team. You will ideally have a degree, minimum 5 months' experience in Client or Financial PR. Only apply if you are looking for fast track promotion.
PA in PR
c£20,000
We need a bright, organised young PA to look after dynamic director as well as hectic secretarial team. WPM (Powerpoint) if you are a 3rd jobber and want a fast action-packed day, come and see us immediately.
JOYCE GUINNESS PARTNERSHIP
0171 589 8807
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SEC/PA to Managing Director
Salary dependent on experience
Dynamic, growing IT Services Company require an enthusiastic and experienced Secretary to support the MD and a small sales team.
The ideal candidate will be a well organised administrator, used to supporting work with excellent communications skills and knowledge of Microsoft Office. This is an ideal opportunity with scope for full involvement and progression.
Please send your CV and covering letter to the Personnel Officer, Twinsoft UK Ltd, 10 Finsbury Square, London, EC2A 1AF.
Closing date 28th September 1997.

Carousal Consultancy Ltd
GIFT FOR GRAPHICS £22,000 + Bens
Fantastic opportunity in dynamic international company based in West End for a secretary with good knowledge of Powerpoint and WPM. Day and evening work. 30 wpm and 3.0 levels (or equivalent) on PA PLUS.
PA PLUS £23,000 + 6 weeks holiday
No role for the faint hearted, the Chief Executive of large, Doublets based on work a tight lead to cover all aspects of running the operation, under intense pressure. Doublets include projects for PR, Shortland etc.
Carousal Consultancy (rec cons)
0171 240 2833 fax 0171-240 7300.

PERSONNEL ADMIN to £20,000 + Bens
Join our Management Consultancy working within Financial Services Department. Assisting the HR Officer with your specialist personnel experience working to tight deadlines on projects. Flexibility or qualified HRD with 2 yrs knowledge of statutory law, pension, or advice, salary reviews and recruitment process. Good team with staff development. Age 24-28. MS Office/Excel.
Call Karen Hutchinson
0171 256 6668 Fax 0171 256 7273
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SENIOR SECRETARY/PA
Excellent Salary and Benefits.
Leading City based Broker require an experienced Secretary/PA to assist in their Managing Director. Arranging meetings, travel and organising functions. WPM 50wpm essential. CC-Mail 55 wpm essential. European language an advantage.
Contact Kimberly Millward for further details
0171 377 6222 & Fax CV 0171 377 1022/1313
Eden Brown Recruitment Ltd, 2 Ploagh Yard, London, EC2A 4LP

ASSISTANT TO SALES DIRECTOR
Exciting opportunity for an organised and motivated individual with strong secretarial skills. Must be able to work unsupervised and have the ability to maintain and build upon excellent customer relations in rapidly growing, innovative and dynamic residential development company. Salary circa £18,000.
Please reply in writing, with CV, to Richard Forman, Second Floor, 12 Capital Avenue, London, EC2R 7DH.

FRIEND & FALCON
SECRETARY-RESIDENTIAL LETTINGS DEPT - CHELSEA
An opportunity has arisen for a well presented secretary to join busy
• Word-processing (preferably Wordperfect/Windows)
• Ability to communicate with people at all levels
• Good organisational skills and the ability to manage the operation, under intense pressure. Salary commensurate with experience. Please apply to:
Caroline Pugh-Jones to Connolly
293 Brentford Road, London SW3 2DZ
Tel: 0171 225 6814

Personal Assistant to Chairman and Group Directors.
High calibre, flexible experienced PA required with good shorthand and WPM for West End multi-faceted group involved in property, construction, aggregates, leasing and advertising. Interesting and varied work. A demanding role. Experience legal/financial company an asset but not essential.
Please apply with CV to: Jeff Vickers DFM Group Ltd
32 Broadwick Street London W1V 1FG.

ASST TO EXPORT MANAGER
For a small medical company, with good written and spoken English, & the ability to handle a variety of tasks.
Please send CV to:
The Director,
280 City Road,
London, E1 2EL
Tel: 0171 220 8149
SECRETARY/PARTY ORGANISER
Required by exclusive Nightclub. Experience, initiative, self motivation and good presentation essential.
Apply in writing with CV and photo by Monday 22 September 1997 to: T. Thompson, 287 City Road, London, E1 2EL

CREME DE LA CREME

ROOM AT THE TOP

Global Executive Assistant

£30,000 Package

An Executive Assistant is sought by one of the world's leading investment banks to work at Global Director level. This expanding role will combine full PA support with total business involvement in a fast paced trading floor environment where you will act as a true assistant to your boss in providing quality driven business solutions worldwide. A desire to

make things happen, the ability to manage your own time and that of others and an implicit high level of discretion will be some of the attributes you possess. In order to maximise the career opportunity you will need to be proactive, highly organised and ambitious. Experience in banking is preferable. W4W, Excel, PowerPoint and 50wpm typing.

Committed to equal opportunities.

0171 814 0800

ONE TO ONE
£23,000

Rare opportunity to join a small, very successful company supporting a young director as a true personal assistant. Your overall input and project work will make a considerable contribution to the running of the business. Shorthand and Excel essential.

Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PROJECTS
£18,000

If you enjoy using your administrative skills, keeping track of numerous projects and liaising with colleagues and clients, you will love this project administrator role in the construction industry. Relevant experience advantageous.

Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RETAIL
£20,000

Upmarket childrens clothes outlet have an extremely exciting opportunity for a bright, polished and flexible individual. Providing support at senior level, development is guaranteed for a real all-rounder. Retail experience essential.

Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

ENTREPRENEUR
£21,000 + Gym m/ship

Unique opportunity to join this rapidly expanding company at chairman level. A true organisational role where you will become fully immersed in all aspects of his business interests. 50wpm, IT literate.

Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

ART/ANTIQUES
£20,000 + Bens

As PA to the Managing Director of this famous fine art company your excellent organisational and liaison skills will be fully appreciated. 50wpm. Word for Windows and Excel.

Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Aldrich & Company

PA TRADING FLOOR
£25-29,000 + BANK BENS

Based in fabulous offices in EC2 you will be supporting the Heads of Sales & Trading. Full administrative & secretarial support - on the trading floor. A brilliant opportunity where you will be constantly using your initiative and working with the best in the industry. They need an independent, confident assistant with superb skills and a great sense of humour. Call Emily Aldrich.

CITY RECRUITMENT
Tel: 0171 588 8999 Fax: 0171 588 8998

Aldrich & Company

GET INTO BANKING
PKG. TO £30,000

A dynamic Secretary with superb administrative skills is needed for a top investment bank in London. A highly international environment which will be totally challenging and requires "the right attitude" rather than "the right experience". Age 20-30's. This role is very varied and you definitely won't be tied to your PC - much more of an organisational role. Call Emily Aldrich.

CITY RECRUITMENT
Tel: 0171 588 8999 Fax: 0171 588 8998

Aldrich & Company

RESEARCH ASSISTANT
PKG. £20-25,000

Are you looking for a change and a challenge? This top investment bank requires a bright, computer literate team player with an interest in current affairs to join the Equity Research department. You will use your excellent communication skills and get fully involved liaising with colleagues at all levels, producing reports and organising all departmental administration. Call Alex Gaze.

CITY RECRUITMENT
Tel: 0171 588 8999 Fax: 0171 588 8998

Aldrich & Company

INVESTOR RELATIONS
£25-27,000 + BENS

A fantastic opportunity has arisen within this prestigious Investment Bank to help co-ordinate relationships between clients and shareholders. You will liaise with salesmen/analysts, arrange meetings & presentations and monitor meeting results in order to initiate roadshows. You will need excellent knowledge of the city and good keyboard and PC skills. Call Sarah Turnbull.

CITY RECRUITMENT
Tel: 0171 588 8999 Fax: 0171 588 8998

Aldrich & Company

TEMPING - A CAREER
TO £11.00 PER HOUR

We can offer long and short term bookings - often leading to permanent careers in banking. You will need plenty of energy, strong secretarial skills and a desire to succeed in a highly professional industry - stockbroking and investment banking. Call Kim St. John for an immediate interview.

CITY RECRUITMENT
Tel: 0171 588 8999 Fax: 0171 588 8998RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT
Guaranteed Minimum £30,000+ Car Scheme

G R Law is a legal secretarial recruitment specialist and is part of the Garfield Robbins Group (formed in 1969) which is the leading supplier of staff to all sectors of the legal market.

Our team is well established and is extremely successful. Our consultants draw on experience gained in a number of different areas including management of a large high street agency, travel consultancy and a well known retail organisation.

G R Law consultants need strong negotiation skills and professionalism. A legal background is not essential as we offer full support and training.

Whether you are currently working in recruitment or have always fancied the challenge, call Nicola Hicks (Director) in confidence, on 0171 216 8787 or 0467 420169 (evenings).

GR Law

LEGAL SECRETARIAL RECRUITMENT

Docklands dream.

£18,000 - £30,000 Packages

Canary Wharf now boasts numerous top name shops, restaurants, pubs and health clubs and is only 12 minutes from Bank. We currently have 25 positions for top Secretaries, Sales Assistants and DTP/Admin Assistants working for this successful European Investment Bank. Top salaries, free travel and exciting benefits - all you need is 50 wpm typing/MS Office. Call Amanda Chesson on 0171 390 7000.

Show Off your Shorthand.

£25,000 Package

Thriving European bank is looking for motivated secretaries to support Directors and their teams. These are involving jobs in an exciting environment and the rewards are high! You will manage diaries, organise travel and meetings, and liaise with clients. 80/50. MS Office. Please call Katy Burke on 0171 390 7000.



Crone Corkill

City - Telephone: 0171 390 7000. Pure Recruitment Skill West End - Telephone: 0171 434 4512.

International connection.

c £23,000 + bens

Blackfriths Need a new challenge? Senior Strategists in a US Investment Bank require an excellent secretary for a high profile role. Special responsibilities include global liaison, coordinating senior level meetings and running your own projects. Strong Word, Excel and graphics skills are a must, as is the ability to thrive in a demanding environment. Age: 24+. Please call Sam Garner on 0171 390 7000.

TEMPORARY OPPORTUNITIES

Up to £10.00 per hour

- Many assignments outstanding with City and West End Co's.
- Long and short term, maternity and temp to perm opportunities.
- If you have good knowledge of W4W, Excel and PowerPoint, please call 0171 828 2727 for an immediate appointment.

TALSMAN

secretarial ltd

Team Players
£16,000-£18,000 + Benefits Package

Prestigious company based in WC2 requires secretaries to work within a lively, professional team environment. Assisting a group of managers with their ongoing projects, presentations and incorporating conference and travel arrangements. Would suit 2nd jobber.

Personnel Administrator/Sec
£18,000 + excellent Benefits

Several of our major clients are offering opportunities for individuals wishing to work within the HR environment. The positions are challenging, involved with plenty of client contact. Would suit a graduate or a secretary wishing to progress into a more complex role.

Senior PA
£23,000 Package

Are you a professional PA who would enjoy the challenge of fully supporting a dynamic partner? This position will enable you to fully utilise your technical and interpersonal skills together with encompassing varied admin duties and ad hoc projects.

Remo House, 310-312 Regent Street, London W1R 5AB. Tel 0171 828 2727 Fax 0171 630 6318

MULTI-LINGUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Bilingual Opportunities - We are currently recruiting for a number of temporary and permanent positions. If you are interested in utilising your flair for languages please call us to discuss these opportunities plus many more.

Personnel Asst/Secretary - Fluent European language, German preferred. £23,000 pkg.

PA in Personnel - Fluent French secretary needed with solid secretarial exp. £21,000 + full banking bens.

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Presentation Secretary - Scandinavian speaking secretary required with strong knowledge of Word, Excel & PowerPoint. £27,000 pkg.

MALABAR

SUPPLIERS OF FINE COTTON AND SILK FABRIC

OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS & CREDIT CONTROLLER

UK - £15K
EXPORT - £16.5K
CREDIT CONTROLLER - £18K

Dynamic and expanding international fabric house requires three flexible self-motivated computer literate individuals for office based administration and customer service duties.

You must be articulate, energetic and be able to cope with a fast pace. The export controller should have an understanding of export procedures and have fluent English. Attention to detail is vital and a sense of humour is essential.

Non smokers please.

Applications in writing with full CV to: Mr Tjebbe Post, The Malabar Cotton Company Ltd, 31-33 The South Bank Business Centre, Panton Road, London SW9 5BL. Fax: 0171 501 4220

MULTI-LINGUAL OPPORTUNITIES

GERMAN, French or Italian sec. PA for financial org. Permanent role. Solid exp. City. Mover. 0171 499 9999.

GREYHORN Vendors Bilingual Opportunities. Temp or perm. 2nd jobber. 0171 499 9999.

JUNIOR French & German speaking Sec/PA. £14k + Bens. Strongly motivated, self-starter. Excellent typing, shorthand, computer skills. 0171 499 9999.

LEGAL Sec/PA with French & German. £14k + Bens. Legal Secretaries sought by City law firm. 0171 499 9999.

NEWSPAPER Bilingual Secretary for City law firm. £14k-£22k. 0171 499 9999.

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Reed Search is a special service designed to respond to the needs of Executive Secretaries who are establishing an impressive career history and seeking ways in which to capitalise on it. This exceptional service offers you the opportunity to work in partnership with a recruitment specialist dedicated to furthering your career through the provision of a level of commitment unsurpassed by any other recruitment company.

PA Chiswick c£20,000
As the PA to the Head of Client Finance for a Sports Sponsorship company, this position requires a highly organised individual with the ability to work well under pressure. W4W and audio essential for this demanding role. Shorthand or speedwriting would be a definite advantage.

Reed Employment Services 0181 994 0106, 402 Chiswick High Road, London W4 5TF.

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Large utilities firm seeks an experienced secretary to assist the Group Treasurer and a team of 6. The post includes processing financial transactions and monitoring expenditure, so a good understanding of financial systems is essential. Suit a team player with an interest in finance.

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HODGE

PA Plus - for HEADHUNTERS

£20 - 25,000

Operating throughout London, New York, Singapore, Hong Kong and Tokyo - with plans to expand into Europe, this highly successful Executive Search consultancy are based in the City and seek a confident, experienced PA to assist their truly dynamic MD. This is a high profile role, with the opportunity to expand into marketing or an in-house personal position whilst providing support on a 1:1 basis. If you are highly efficient, proactive, well organised with excellent secretarial experience, ideally gained within the City or marketing environments - Please call the West End office.

TEL: 0171 629 8863 FAX: 0171 408 0961

HEAD HUNTED

£20,000

Expertise, quality solutions and sheer professionalism are some of the contributory factors to the success of this small City based firm of head-hunters. They now require an energetic team secretary to work closely with five dynamic directors, providing comprehensive secretarial support. Day to day duties will also include supervising the receptionists, general office management and administration of various office systems. If you are team spirited, have a positive and professional attitude, with at least two years' secretarial experience, please contact us now.

Committed to equal opportunities

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer

PA TO DIRECTORS - EXCELLENT

Mature secretary required being responsible for all aspects of small friendly construction company's City office. MS Office Professional and office management skills essential, salary will not be a barrier for the right person. For further details telephone Malcolm Pye 0181 641 5555

PA IN EXECUTIVE PERSONNEL

£18,000-£20,000 + Exc Bens

One of the largest Accountancy firms in the UK, requires Senior Sec with 5 yrs + Senior level exp for WC2 & Ubridge offices. Exc interpersonal skills & org ability ess. 55+ wpm typ. Age 33-43.

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Fax: 0171 420 8044

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£16,000 + Bens. Superb opportunities for

ambitious secretaries aged 18-28. Fashion

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Team Sec. £16,000.

Call Wendy. 0171 420 8008

Fax: 0171 420 8044

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£18,000 + Free Lunch + Bontis

Respected City Fund Management company seek an

experienced Secretary to develop their skills into areas

e.g. presentations and information management whilst

handling travel, diaries etc. for Property Fund Team. The

successful candidate will be an adaptable self-starter with good

Why we're talking about a revolution

Every secretary knows there has been a revolution in the way they do their work. Bosses do, too, but there are those who prefer to see it as just another phase in a secretary's life. Acknowledging their ability to be at the forefront of the information technology necessary for their job might underline the boss's lack of it.

Ask around, and many recruitment agencies will say that, because of this, the secretarial market is fast becoming applicant-led. Many large businesses are crying out for secretaries equipped with the technical — and other — skills they need.

Technology has not only changed a secretary's style of work but has added to the amount of responsibility and initiative needed. The pay packages being offered to many personal assistants and senior secretaries show how valuable their job is.

That does not mean that the old skills have become redundant — Mark Rodgers, of Joslin Rowe, places good shorthand at the top of his five-point list of the technical and non-technical skills that are

Susan MacDonald on the way technology has turned the role of secretary into a managerial one

the key to a varied job with a good salary package.

"Some secretarial training courses have unfortunately let shorthand lapse, so first-jobbers often do not have good speeds, which is a pity because it is still a top requirement," says Mr Rodgers, who manages the secretarial division of this City recruitment consultancy.

Alongside shorthand, Mr Rodgers places PC skills at the top of his list, and they include in-depth knowledge of packages such as Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

Second comes flexibility and commitment: the ability to take on new assignments, to change an area of work and to

work flexible hours. If a company sees a secretary is committed to work, he says, the salary package will reflect it.

Number three is additional responsibility. This includes taking on project work, such as looking at new business trends or creating a client database. Insurance companies need secretaries to take on projects covering areas such as looking at a new way of claiming money.

Fourth is initiative — often thought of as the other side of responsibility — in areas such as arranging meetings, travel and requisitioning. Fifth comes team exercises: the ability to be involved in multi-

tasking, working for a number of managers, as well as on a one-to-one basis. And don't forget to throw in the need for personality, dynamism and a sense of humour.

All this takes the secretarial role into what once would have been considered junior or even middle management, so to ensure that both secretaries and employers benefit from skilled secretaries, many recruitment agencies provide before and after care for the secretaries on their books.

Alexandra Alcock has just joined one of the top merchant banking firms in the City. This is her third City job and, armed with a high level of skills, she chose two recruitment agencies to do the work of finding her a better job.

One of them, she says, took little interest in her but the other was Joslin Rowe. She chose them because she liked the job descriptions in their advertisements and they stayed in touch and sent her on lots of interviews, which resulted in a job she is thrilled to have.

"I spent a day with the consultancy so they could check my typing, shorthand



Technology has not only changed the style of work but has added to the responsibility and initiative needed

skills and chat to me about the job I was looking for," she says. Because she had good skills she was in a position to decide which job to accept.

"I chose to work for this bank because it is a very professional company with a good reputation." She now works in the compliance department, feeding the bank's

traders with advice and information, mainly on laws and regulations.

The work is varied, which she likes. The hours can be long, although her salary package reflects this. "I like the job because it is a challenge. The hours are flexible but there are not many good jobs with 9am to 5pm hours

around any more," she says. "I earn just over £20,000 plus health insurance, pension, and the use of a gym and a subsidised restaurant."

She likes the fact that her recruitment consultants helped her beforehand in assessing her skills and improving those they felt were not up to scratch. She is pleased that

they stay in touch, making sure she is happy and offering her the chance to enhance her technical skills by attending short modular courses which take place before work, after work or at lunchtime.

This help is free of charge but, as Mr Rodgers says, updating skills is the way forward.

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FIRST CRÈME

EXCELLENT last job which will challenge your skills and give you a fantastic salary. This is a great opportunity for a secretary to work for a leading company in the City. The role involves a wide range of administrative duties and requires a high level of accuracy and attention to detail. If you are looking for a challenging role and a competitive salary, this is the perfect opportunity for you. Please send your CV to: 0171 680 6806.

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EXPERIENCED Medical Secretary required for busy practice. Must be able to handle a high volume of work and have excellent communication skills. Salary £12,000 per annum. Please send your CV to: 0171 782 7586.

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Salary to £20,000. An expanding property company in the City is looking for a highly motivated and experienced administrative professional. The role involves a wide range of administrative duties and requires a high level of accuracy and attention to detail. If you are looking for a challenging role and a competitive salary, this is the perfect opportunity for you. Please send your CV to: 0171 782 7586.

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£18,000-20,000. PA for MD of established Mayfair firm. The role involves a wide range of administrative duties and requires a high level of accuracy and attention to detail. If you are looking for a challenging role and a competitive salary, this is the perfect opportunity for you. Please send your CV to: 0171 782 7586.

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LETTINGS & SALES

Ideas man with hands on the helm

THE  TIMES

FOOTBALL

Francis suggests weekend dates for internationals

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

GERRY FRANCIS, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, yesterday called for international matches to be played at weekends to allow players plenty of time to return for FA Carling Premiership matches.

Francis said some players had reported back for domestic duty only 24 hours before weekend fixtures, placing their clubs at a disadvantage.

He said if World Cup and European championship ties were played on Saturdays this would allow Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, the extra time he is seeking with his players the day after an international.

Francis said: "I believe players could play for their club on a Saturday, meet up with their country on a Sunday, have virtually the same preparation time as now and play the international the following Saturday."

Then, in England's case, Glenn Hoddle could have his day with the squad on Sunday to analyse things and then the players would report back to their clubs on the Monday with a full week to prepare for the following weekend.

"But, as things stand, club managers often have players reporting back on the Friday before the Saturday game, possibly after a long flight which has taken the edge off them, with no time to prepare properly — and yet you are judged all the time by results."

"Tottenham played Arsenal a fortnight ago on a Saturday and then the international players left to go to their various countries and we didn't have the chance to work again with them until last Friday — 24 hours before the game at Leicester."

"If one or two players are

away with their club then it is not a problem, but when, as in our case, there were 14 players away for two weeks, it doesn't give me — or any manager in the same boat — a lot of time."

"It also gives little niggles and knocks little time to recover, whereas having a full week after the international before playing again would enable problems to clear up and leave players not feeling jaded."

"You have got to try and be fair to club and international managers whose interests cut across each other now and create a level playing field for both which I think having the internationals at the weekend would help to create."

Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle United manager, expressed similar concerns after Faustino Asprilla arrived one hour before Newcastle's recent game at St James' Park against Bolton Wanderers after being on World Cup duty for Colombia.

"Internationals should be played on Saturdays. The European championship could be the right time to do it. Everyone throughout Europe

I believe, will think the same way," Dalglish said. "At the moment countries have players for five or seven days and we sometimes get 24 hours with them — sometimes not even that."

Asprilla was left out of the starting line-up, but played as a substitute.

Ian Wright, the England and Arsenal forward, is expected to learn today the date of his Football Association disciplinary hearing.

The FA have bowed to pressure from Arsenal and agreed to hold Wright's hearing before Hoddle names his squad on September 29 for England's final World Cup qualifying round match with Italy in Rome on October 11.

Wright was charged with misconduct — along with Patrick Vieira, a team-mate, Pat Rice, the Arsenal assistant coach, and Steve Walsh, the Leicester City captain — after a 3-3 draw at Filbert Street last month.

The FA originally had planned to summon Wright after the England match. They did not want to be seen to be depriving Hoddle of his main striker with Alan Shearer, Teddy Sheringham and Les Ferdinand all injured.

But Arsenal urged them to act sooner. They did not want Wright to have to serve any ban at an important stage of their season.

Steve Double, a spokesman for the FA, said: "We hope to have a date for the hearing tomorrow. We are looking at one or two options within the next couple of weeks."

Hoddle supported Wright, claiming he had been picked on by referees, and said he would select him, even if a domestic ban was imposed.



Wright: faces hearing

Sherwood warns against taking Preston lightly

"REMEMBER Stockport" was the cautionary advice Tim Sherwood offered his Blackburn colleagues yesterday on the eve of the first leg of their Coca-Cola Cup second-round match with Preston North End at Ewood Park.

Stockport, then in the second division, "knocked out Blackburn in the third round last season, and it was Sherwood's own goal which separated the sides in what proved to be Ray Harford's last match as the Blackburn manager."

"If we play anything like we can, we should win the game," Sherwood said. "But if we get complacent they could catch us out, as Stockport did last season."

Roy Hodgson, who has revitalised Blackburn since taking over during the summer, has decided to rest Stephane Henchoz, Jason Wilcox, Garry Flitcroft, Patrick Valery and Colin Hendry, though Hendry was injured during the defeat by Leeds on Sunday.

Per Pedersen, a striker, and the central defender, Tore Pedersen, have been included in the squad, while the fringe players Marlon Broomes, Gary Croft and Damien Duff could also have a part to play. Martin Dahlin hopes to shrug off a cold but if he is ruled out, either Flitcroft or Wilcox will be recalled. Alan Flett is cup-tied. Ian Pearce returns after a calf injury, but Billy McKinlay is again kept out by a strained groin muscle.

The Preston manager, Gary Peters, declared that this was one match for which he did not need to motivate his players. "It's a huge game for the club and the players are really looking forward to playing against quality opposition," he said. Preston's record signing, Michael Appleton, who cost £500,000 from Manchester United is doubtful with a calf injury.

Les Ferdinand, the England striker, was a surprise inclusion in a squad of 21 named by the Tottenham Hotspur man-

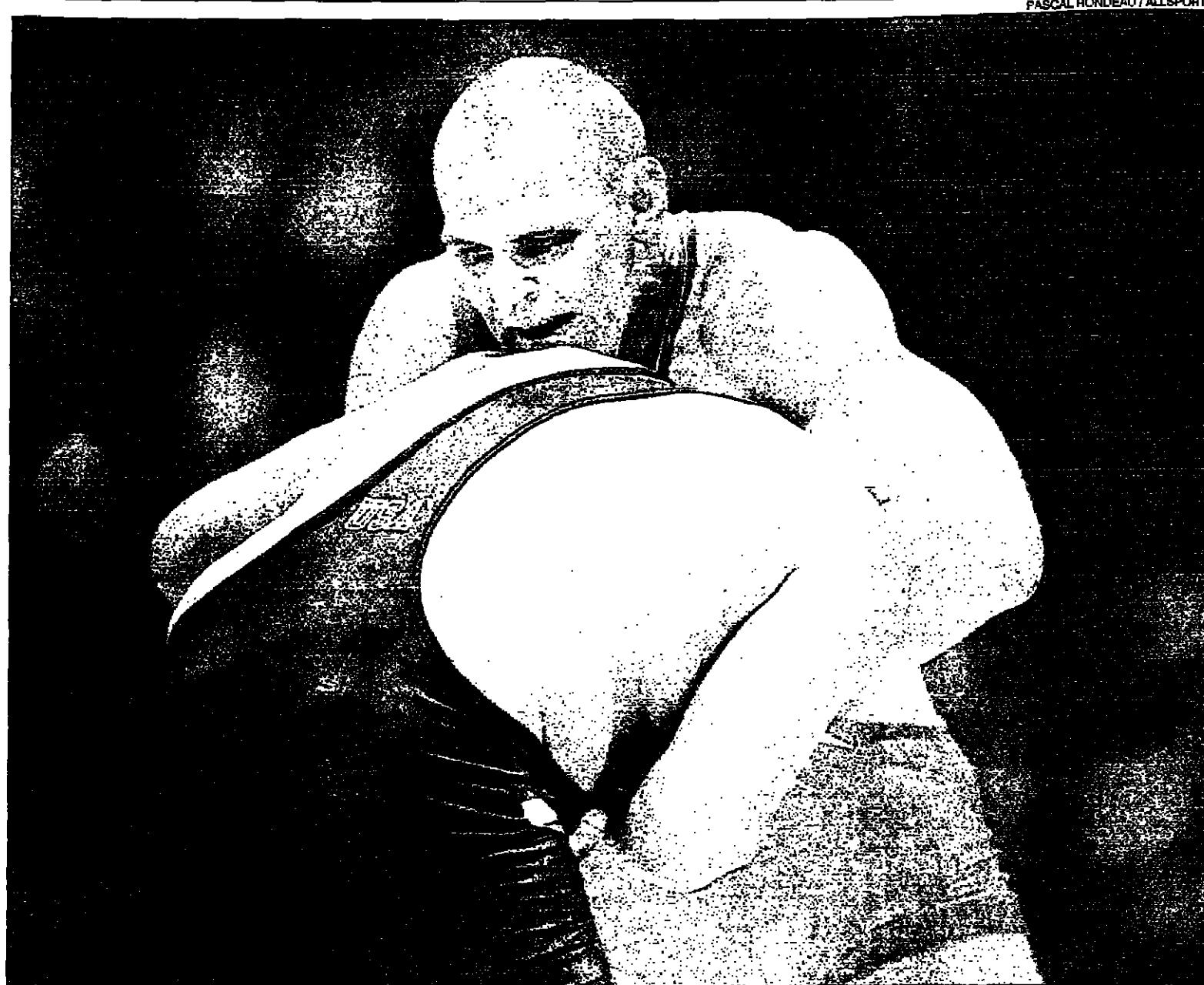
ager, Gerry Francis, for their game with Carlisle. The £6 million summer-signing from Newcastle is included despite a damaged stomach muscle.

"Les has still to see a specialist but I'm refusing to rule him out at the moment," Francis said. "I prefer to think positive, until we know otherwise."

David Howells will have a late fitness test on a back injury and striker Chris Armstrong also faces a test on a groin strain.

A delegation from the Football League held talks with European Commission chiefs in Brussels yesterday over the decision to deny English clubs entry to the Uefa Cup via the Coca-Cola Cup.

"We had an extensive and sympathetic meeting at which we were able to present our case in detail," the League chairman, David Sheepshanks, said. "They will now consider our complaint, taking into account the views of other parties including Uefa."



Karelin grabs Chaffari, of the United States, in a typically vice-like hold on his way to winning the gold medal in Atlanta last year

Monument to wrestling supremacy

John Goodbody profiles Alexandr Karelin, one of the most intimidating figures in modern sport

The Americans call him the "bouncer from hell". When Alexandr Karelin won his third successive Olympic super-heavyweight wrestling championship in Atlanta last year, it was not the ease of his victories that haunted the memory of millions of television viewers, it was his physical presence.

As his shaven head and hooded eyes reared over the back of fallen opponents, Karelin looked like the convict Magwitch coming out from behind the tombstones to terrorise Pip in the graveyard at the start of Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations*.

Although weighing 20st at only 6ft 3in, much of Karelin's weight is across his shoulders and back. He has hands like machine tools and his arm-span is seven feet. He is also so flexible that he can stand upright, swing a size 15 shoe over his head and

touch a chandelier hanging eight feet above the ground.

On Saturday, Karelin continued his ten-year unbeaten run in Greco-Roman wrestling by winning yet another world title in Wrocław, Poland. Greco-Roman wrestling is about as popular in Great Britain as rugby union is in Sberbia, where Karelin lives. When I helped John Motson with the BBC's wrestling commentaries at the 1976 Olympic Games, he was worried that he had confused the two finalists in one category. I was able to reassure him that there are only four Britons who are interested in Greco-Roman wrestling and three of them were not watching television but out training. However, in Russia, Poland,

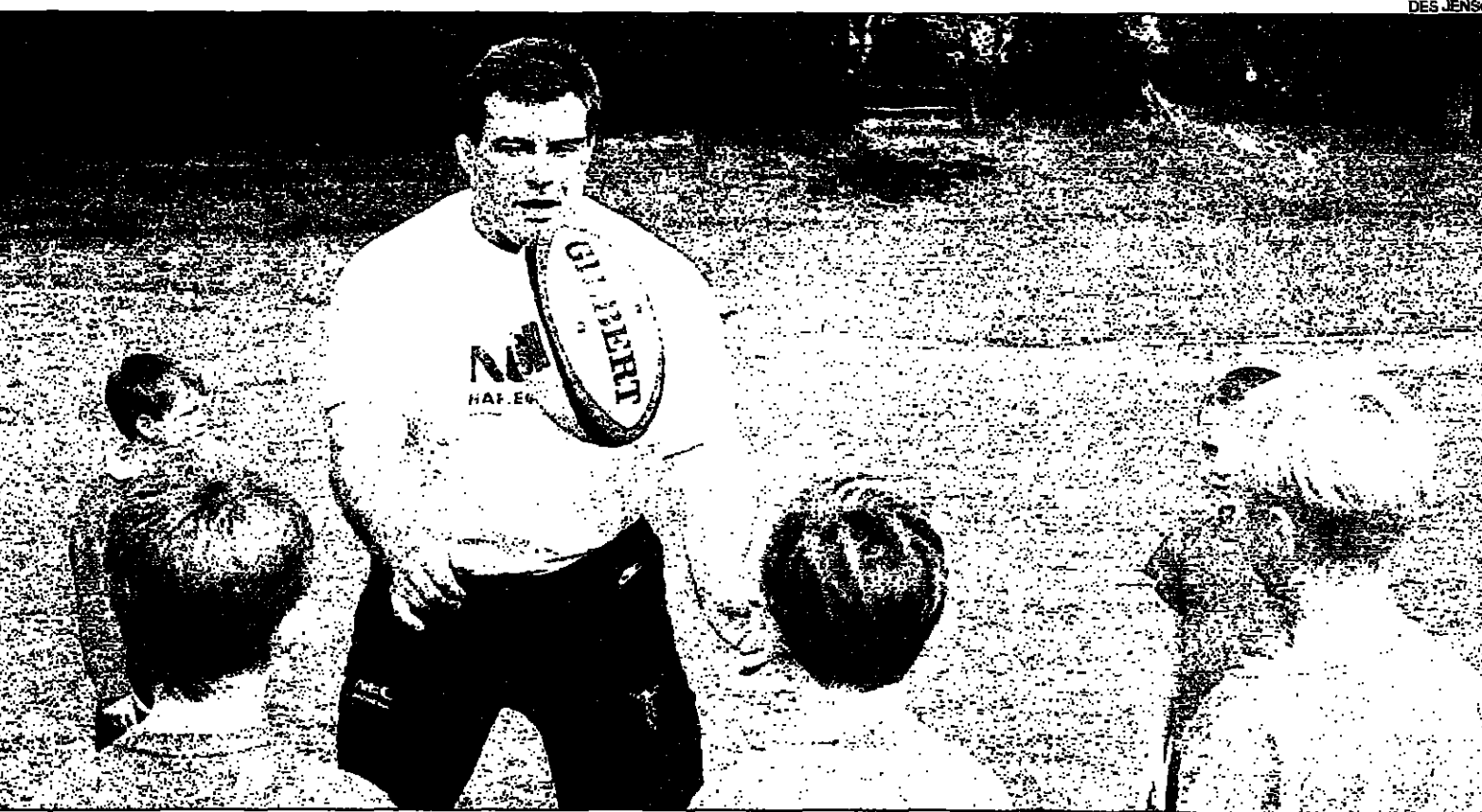
Scandinavia and Bulgaria, where the sport is highly developed, Karelin is a monument.

The climate of his home town, Novosibirsk, more than 1,700 miles east of Moscow, fashions the inhabitants towards a particular type of resilience. The temperatures in winter plunge below 45F. It was here that Karelin began his quest in the 1980s for international domination. Every morning, he would drink half a gallon of milk and then run through the forests, sometimes in deep snow, often for two hours, before returning to sleep.

His most famous move in wrestling is the reverse bodylift, in which he kneels down beside a 20st opponent,

who is face down and flat on the floor, and locks his hands underneath the opponent's stomach. He pulls him up so that the rival remains parallel to the mat. Then Karelin uses his legs to provide the leverage to bring the opponent, who is struggling vainly, to his waist. The pair now look like a plus sign. Then Karelin twists and hurls an opponent head over heels on to the mat. Try it on a 10st man. Even that is not easy.

Karelin has such an intimidating effect on other wrestlers that they almost idolise him. Matt Ghaffari, of the United States, who finished second to Karelin in Atlanta, has a picture of the Russian in his living room at home, while another rival, Panayiotis Polikidis, of Greece, said: "I will be honoured to tell my children that I wrestled this great man." Some people in Poland on Saturday were equally honoured just to watch him.



A whole new ball game: Leonard, the Harlequins prop, puts a group of schoolchildren through their paces at Haslemere rugby club

Harlequins try to speed up conversions

SURREY schoolchildren made the most of a golden opportunity to be coached by some of the world's leading rugby union players when a number of Harlequins' international representatives descended on Haslemere junior rugby club (Claire Tolley writes).

Two thousand children aged between six and 15 benefited from the training day, which was staged as part of a project designed to introduce rugby union back into England's schools.

Rugby has been struggling at grassroots level as schools have lacked

qualified teachers and adequate facilities, so when Harlequins joined forces with their sponsors, NEC, 15 months ago they began a scheme to develop a lasting relationship between junior clubs and local schools.

Andy Challis, Harlequins' youth development director, said: "As we have a limited amount of facilities at the Stoop we decided to promote rugby through several satellite clubs in the area."

In the light of the rift between the Rugby Football Union and England's leading clubs, Challis was keen to emphasise the significance of the close

working relationship between Harlequins and Surrey's youth development officers as a factor in the success of the coaching project.

The children received newsletters and gifts from Harlequins in association with Haslemere rugby club. The London side will also provide rugby equipment and access to coaching courses to capitalise on the children's enthusiasm.

NEC is financing the project and its contribution is doubled under a government initiative called Sports-match. The Government has pledged to give an equivalent amount of

money towards schemes supported by a significant sponsor.

Virginia Bottomley, MP, the Haslemere club patron, said the Harlequins effort could serve as a model for other leading clubs and Jason Leonard, the England and British Isles prop forward, said the club recognised the importance of its role in the development of the game. "It's crucial that the children enjoy the game at this session so that they come back to watch and learn and then go on to play themselves — we might be coaching a future Will Carling," he said.

NEWS SPORT WHAT'S ON FUN KNOWLEDGE MONEY SHOPPING TALK INTERNET

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CORRECT SCORE		DOUBLE RESULT		FIRST GOALSCORER	
NEWCASTLE	BARCELONA	HT/FT	FT/FT	HT/FT	FT/FT
6/1	1-0	1-1	1-2	6/1	ASPRILLA (N)
11/1	2-0	8/1	8/1	6/1	ANDERSON (B)
10/1	2-1	8/1	8/1	7/1	TOMASSON (N)
33/1	3-0	20/1	20/1	10/1	STROICHKOV (B)
28/1	3-1	18/1	18/1	16/1	LEE (N)
33/1	3-2	33/1	33/1	16/1	GILLESPIE (N)
5/1	0-0	5/1	5/1	20/1	GUARDIOLA (B)
5/1	1-1	5/1	5/1	25/1	BERESFORD (N)
18/1	2-2	18/1	18/1		

Other scores on request. Bets void if 2nd half not started. Own goals do not count.

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Few find lasting cure for the fear of failure

The Graeme Hick Syndrome: the way in which an event or an occasion can overwhelm the talents of an individual. It was never that Hick's talents as a batsman were insufficient. But the bowlers he murdered in county cricket would become unplayable demons in a Test match.

It was not that cricket of Test-match quality was too much for him. It was that Test matches themselves undid him. The notion of a Test match made something deep in his nature say "Cah-er". And so he never came close to fulfilling the potential of his sporting abilities.

That this happens with individuals is part of the enduring pattern of sport. And sometimes they even get over it. Mark Ramprakash, in his last innings for England at the end of the summer, played a crucial part in the victory. Ian Wright, for years told "You never score for England", scored two goals as England beat Moldova 4-0 at Wembley last week.

But the truly rum thing is the way that the Graeme Hick Syndrome affects not only individuals, and not only teams. It affects also the unfolding dynasties of teams. Easily the best example of this is the Scottish football team at the World Cup. Few English footballing people will have failed to feel the thrill of delight at the news that Scotland seem certain to qualify for next summer's World Cup in France.

No football team in the world can match the Scottish record of glorious pratfalls and still more glorious — but always utterly useless — heroics. The glorious 0-0 draw against Brazil in 1974 was quite useless because they only put two past Zaire and so went out on goal difference.

Then there was the defeat by Peru and the draw against Iran under the unforgettable Ally MacLeod in 1978. These disasters were followed by the useless and glorious 3-2 victory over Holland. Most recently, in 1990, Scotland lost 1-0 to Costa Rica, beat Sweden

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

2-1, and then lost — heroically — 1-0 to Brazil.

It happens in other sports too, as I was reminded at the weekend, when I went to the Open European Championship in three-day eventing at Burghley. The British team won, against stiff competition. They won it the only other time it was an open competition. This was the fifteenth British victory in the European Championship, open or closed, since it began in 1953. Britain produces, on a regular basis, a very high percentage of the best event riders in the world.

But in a manner reminiscent of the Scottish football team, they always take a pratfall at the Olympic Games. Every time, they are fancied for gold; every time, they come home defeated, often humiliated, and always embarrassed. The last time they won a gold medal at the team or the individual level, was in 1972 with Richard Meade.

In 1976, everything went wrong when Princess Anne fell off her horse. No team was sent to Moscow in 1980, this being — it seems such an outdated concept now, thank God — one of the boycott years. In 1984 in Los Angeles, the team was merely unlucky, pipped for gold by the strong American team.

In Seoul in 1988, the controversially-selected Mark Phillips had to drop out when his

horse went lame, and Karen Dixon saw the chance of gold disappear as she herself disappeared into the water. In Barcelona four years on, Ian Stark's horse did not pass the vet after the cross-country and had to withdraw; Mary King's horse, King William, ran away with her and she took all the long routes, incurring bags of time penalties.

Things went still worse in Atlanta last year when Britain went into the event as world champions.

But Stark fell at the water; William Fox-Pitt fell between fences, and Dixon, feeling too deeply the pressures of team responsibility, took all the long routes and lost time. Britain did not even get a medal.

There is something of the Ryder Cup Effect in operation here: the extraordinary stresses of playing an individual game in a team context. But the British team has repeatedly done well in less significant team events: only the Olympic Games turn the British eventing team into Scottish footballers.

It is not that they carry their responsibility lightly, rather the exact opposite. Too conscious of the hopes and dreams of others, they lose that crucial sense of adventure, of boldness, of intelligent, calculated risk: the very things that make for a good cross-country rider.

The team, the team: the riders succumb to this powerful call, and ride in the after-you-Claude spirit that leads to self destruction. Every rider knows in his heart the true motto of horsemanship: when in doubt, kick on. It is a rule applicable to most walks of life.

I suggest that these five words should be written on little banners, and suspended between the horse's ears when the British team kicks on across the cross-country course at Sydney three years hence.

As for the Scottish team playing in France next year — well, good luck lads. And never forget: the English are cheering you on. Could there be anything more encouraging than that?



Martin has not recovered from his wrist operation in time to take his place at the Forest of Arden

Martin stays on the sidelines

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

A FEW rays of sunshine yesterday cast some light into the life of Ken Schofield, the executive director of the PGA European Tour. Schofield has been embroiled in two important issues recently. The first was the threat of legal action by Miguel Angel Martin over his removal from the Europe Ryder Cup team to play the United States next week; the second, the players' criticism of the course at Crans for the recent European Masters and fears about the poor condition of the greens at the Forest of Arden for the One Two British Masters this week.

The strength of Martin's case against the Ryder Cup committee, of which Schofield is an important part, was weakened when the wrist he injured in mid-July had not recovered sufficiently for him to compete at the Forest of Arden. Martin telephoned his withdrawal on Monday evening. "I tried to hit balls but I could not do it properly," he

said. "It was not hurting but the balls were not going where I wanted. The British Masters is not a caddies' tournament. It is a professional event and I am supposed to play like a professional."

Mike Stewart, the tournament director, said Martin had not made an explanation for his withdrawal. "I assume it is because he is unfit to play," he said.

Some players harbour strong feelings about the committee's handling of Martin, however, and Jean Van de Velde intends to raise the matter at a meeting of the Tournament Committee this afternoon. "People are unhappy and I know I am not the only one," the Frenchman said. "It is not justice. I'm still convinced it was wrong."

"He [Martin] was pushed out presumably because they felt he wasn't capable of competing. A sense of fairness has been ignored. We need to find out who took these decisions for the end of the day we are the players and without us there is no show. If we have no right to have a say on important matters like this, then what are we? It's bad for golf, it's bad for the tour and the credibility of the tour."

At least the greens at the Forest of Arden, which several weeks ago had been rumoured to be bad, proved to be better than expected. "They're OK," more than one player said yesterday after the practice rounds.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 43

SLIEVE LEAGUE

(a) One of Ireland's most interesting mountains, for few reasons. First, near the 998 metre summit there are two small outliers of what most geologists regard as carboniferous sandstone. If they are right, this is testimony to a massive historic denudation. Second, half the mountain, from the crest down to the breakers, has slithered down and disappeared into the sea.

ANCHISES

(b) A Trojan prince, son of Priam, great-grandson of Troy. He made love to Aphrodite, who gave birth to Aeneas. He boasted about this, and some legends claim that he was accordingly blinded or paralysed by Zeus. Plus Aeneas carried him out of the holocaust of Troy on his back. He makes several appearances in the Aeneid, notably in Book VI, where Aeneas meets him in the underworld.

THIXOTROPY

(c) The property of certain gels and other substances of becoming fluid when agitated and reverting back when left to stand. Non-spill paints are an example. So is also the behaviour of wet sand on the beach, particularly quicksand, and on bucket-and-spading holidays. The range of the materials subject to thixotropy extends from the hardest solids, through doughs and pastes to liquids such as blood and milk.

FESSE

(d) In heraldry, an ordinary formed by two horizontal lines drawn across the middle of the field, and usually containing between them one third of the escutcheon. Russia. The Eagle's Nest, 1872. The fesse, a horizontal bar across the middle of the shield, represents the knight's girdle.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Qe2 2 Qg1 Rxd2 3 Kxh2 Qh4 4 Kg2 Qxg5 5 Kh1 Qxg1 6 Kg1 Nxd5 7 e4d5 Kd6 and Black has an easily winning king and pawn endgame.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Tales of the canine corps

Animal People: Dogs At War BBC1, 7.00pm

To say that dogs have "changed the face of warfare" may be pushing it, but this affectionate film offers plenty of tales of canine heroics. Perhaps the most striking comes from the Vietnam War and concerns a dog called Troubles. When his master, Bill Richardson, was wounded and forced to abandon him, Troubles managed to find his way back to base camp, through 50 miles of dense jungle, dodging the Vietcong and booby traps. The Second World War throws up a couple of stories, including that of Rex who saved the life of a British paratrooper by disarming not one but three German snipers in the Ardennes. The point is well made that dogs not only have a much keener sense of smell than we do, but of sight and hearing as well. They continue to play an important military role, not least in sniffing out guns and bombs in Northern Ireland.

The Antiques Show BBC2, 8.30pm

Of the making of programmes about antiques there seems to be no end. *The Great Antiques Hunt* has just finished, to be replaced by *The Antiques Inspectors*. Going for a Song continues at lunchtime and the *Antiques Roadshow* will be back for its umpteenth year. Meanwhile, Francine Stock returns with the jaunty magazine which seems destined to have something for all tastes. The topics for tonight include Victorian baths, classic caravans and a guitar owned by Jimi Hendrix. Stock visits the Grosvenor House Fair, but mainly to mock an event that is as much a social occasion for the rich as a magnet for serious collectors. The programme also tries to define what an antique is, not nearly as easy as it might sound.

The Nazis — A Warning From History BBC2, 9.00pm

Although the Nazi era ended more than 50 years ago, Laurence Rees's series continues to draw fruitfully on first-hand testimony. The programme has managed to track down a woman who betrayed her neighbour to the Gestapo. That she affects to have no memory of it is contradicted by documentary evidence, leaving the interview



Comrades at arms (BBC1, 7.00pm)

eloquent in its omissions. The incident is highlighted to make the point that far from being simply imposed on ordinary Germans, the Gestapo was sustained by their willingness to denounce their fellow citizens. But the bigger theme of the film, picking up on academic work in the area, is the degree to which the apparently monolithic Nazi regime was chaotic and fragmented. Hitler may have been the magnetic leader but he was a lazy administrator who allowed factions to compete for power.

Over the Edge: Sectioned BBC2, 11.15pm

The disability series returns with three women talking about their experiences in various psychiatric hospitals. Their disturbing accounts suggest that despite attempts at a more enlightened approach to mental illness, the bad old ways still persist. Terry Bailey lost two children, and a cousin in her care, to cot deaths. She set fire to a shop selling baby clothes, and to herself, and was sent to Rampton high security hospital. She says she was punished, not treated, and describes being locked up in a bare cell for 12 hours a day. Linda Hart, mother of two with a full-time job, was put in a local asylum after hearing the voice of her dead father. She has survived but is bitter. Kari Hasham has been in and out of mental hospitals for 18 years and retains a very jaundiced view of psychiatrists. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Lunchtime Concert Radio 3, 1.00pm

A new series for Wednesdays comes live from the Wigmore Hall in London and demonstrates that autumn is truly with us, for lunchtime concerts on Radio 3 are very much a mark of that season. However, this year the Wednesday concert is only part of a wider revamping of the Radio 3 schedule. Paul Guinness presents *Lunchtime Concert* and the format is to use a mix of younger and experienced musicians as the series progresses. Today the Gould Trio plays Haydn's Piano Trio in G (the Gipsy Rondo), and the First Piano Trio by Arensky. The Gould Trio consists of Lucy Gould, violin, Martin Storey, cello, and Gretel Dowling, piano. Tickets for these concerts in the series can be obtained on 0171-765 5343.

Singular Women: Bea Radio 4, 8.45pm

There is a special tone of voice that pervades the reminiscences of men or women whose partners have been well known but about whom the whole truth was never quite revealed. It is a tone that speaks of knowledge shared by few, combined with world-weary cynicism, and it is delivered to perfection by June Brown in this, the first of a four-part series of monologues featuring four actresses over the next month. Brown will forever be famous as Dot Cotton in *EastEnders* and she brings a touch of that persona, though only a touch, to the part of Bea, who has been the long-time companion to a comedian whose death puts her in the limelight. The four monologues have all been written by Stewart Permutt. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00am Simon Mayo 12.00am Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00pm Newsbeat 2.00pm Nick Campbell includes the Teenage Topical Triple Tracker 4.00pm Kevin Greening 6.15pm Newsbeat 6.30pm Evening Session with Steve Lamacq 8.30pm Trade Update with Claire McDonnell 8.40pm John Peel 10.00pm John Peel 10.30pm Charlie Jordan 1.00am Dave Warren 4.00pm Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30am Wake Up to Wogan 9.30am Ken Bruce 11.30am Jimmy Young 1.00pm Debbie Thompson 2.00pm Stuart Maconie 3.00pm Johnnie Walker 7.00pm Nick Spill 8.00pm Jim Lloyd with Folk on 2 With guest Maddy Prior who talks about her new album 9.00pm The Comedy Show. An insight into the life of the first single-singer-writer with contributions from Simon Pegg, Peter Kay, and Bill Bailey 9.30pm Talking Comedy Nigel Planer discusses what makes him laugh 10.00pm Steve Wright Picture Show 10.30pm Richard Ainsworth 12.00am Steve Madden 3.00am Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 8.00am The Magazine, with Brian Hayes 12.00pm Middy with Mair 2.00pm Ruocco on Five 4.00pm Nationwide with Juan Wörckler 7.00pm News Extra, with Valerie Sanders 7.30pm John Inverdale's Football Night FC Soccer v Manchester United, Newcastle v Barcelona in the European Champions' League first round. Plus the English Coca-Cola Cup second round, first leg 10.00pm Littlejohn 11.00pm News Extra, with Valerie Sanders, includes the financial world tonight 12.00am After Hours 2.00am All Night, with Rhod Sharp 5.00am Morning Reports

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross and Carol McGiffin 9.00am Scott Chisholm 12.00pm Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00pm Peter Dinkley 7.00am Anne Robinson 9.00am James White 1.00pm Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Ravel (Piano Trio in A minor); Bach (Orchestral Suite No 3 in D); Handel (Harpson on a Dulcino); Debussy (Suite: Children's Corner); Shostakovich (Festive Overture); Elgar (Introduction and Allegro) 9.00am Morning Collection, with Penny Gore. Includes Violin Concerto A minor; Bloch (Poems of the Sea); Strauss (Sonata No 1) 10.00am Musical Encounters, with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Hindemith (Ragtime); Bach (Trio Sonata in G); West (Merry, The Flute); Haydn (Symphony No 43 in E flat, Mercury) Cyril Rootham (The Stolen Child); Ravel (Le Tombeau de Couperin); Koehlin (Seven Stars' Symphony, 4th mv); Leduc (Overture in G); Blocher (Variations on a Theme of Paganini) 12.00pm Composer of the Week: Clementi. Presented by David Byers in conversation with Malcolm Birrell. Includes two piano sonatas by the composer who was often at his best in minor keys. Clementi's Piano Sonata in F minor, Op 13 No 6; Symphony No 2 in D; Sonata in F sharp minor) 1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. See Choice 2.00pm The Windy Sea (FM). The first of a four-part series in which Tim Whewell journeys around the Caspian Sea 10.15 On This Day (LW) 11.30 Gardeners' Question Time Geoffrey Smith, Bob Powerdown and Nigel Colborn answer some of the questions posed by gardeners from Pyke, Lancashire. With chairman Eric Robinson (P) 12.00pm News, You and Yours, with Lesley Riddoch 12.25pm Eastern Mice. The second of Philip Althor's six-part comedy drama. With Harnage Singh, Kalfra, Kalfryn Aparowicz and Annette Kerr 12.55pm Weather 1.00pm The World at One 1.40pm The Archers (P) 1.55pm Shipping Forecast 2.00pm News; The Poggers and the Creelers. The first of a new three-part drama, written by Catherine Czerkowska, set in an Ayrshire village in 1905 2.45pm News; Lesliars from Here and There (2/5) 3.00pm News; The Afternoon Shift, with Dore Braban 4.05pm Kaleidoscope. Paul Gambaccini sees Rupert Everett in *My Best Friend's Wedding* 4.45pm Short Story: Marriage, by Evelyn Lau. Read by Barbara Barnes

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00am News Briefing 6.10am Farming Today 6.25pm Prayer for the Day 6.30pm Today 8.45pm Speak After the Bop (3/5) 8.58pm Weather 9.00pm News 9.05pm Midweek with the Times columnist Libby Purves and guests 10.00pm Daily Service (LW) 10.05pm News; The Windy Sea (FM). The first of a four-part series in which Tim Whewell journeys around the Caspian Sea 10.15 On This Day (LW) 11.30 Gardeners' Question Time Geoffrey Smith, Bob Powerdown and Nigel Colborn answer some of the questions posed by gardeners from Pyke, Lancashire. With chairman Eric Robinson (P) 12.00pm News, You and Yours, with Lesley Riddoch 12.25pm Eastern Mice. The second of Philip Althor's six-part comedy drama. With Harnage Singh, Kalfra, Kalfryn Aparowicz and Annette Kerr 12.55pm Weather 1.00pm The World at One 1.40pm The Archers (P) 1.55pm Shipping Forecast 2.00pm News; The Poggers and the Creelers. The first of a new three-part drama, written by Catherine Czerkowska, set in an Ayrshire village in 1905 2.45pm News; Lesliars from Here and There (2/5) 3.00pm News; The Afternoon Shift, with Dore Braban 4.05pm Kaleidoscope. Paul Gambaccini sees Rupert Everett in *My Best Friend's Wedding* 4.45pm Short Story: Marriage, by Evelyn Lau. Read by Barbara Barnes

Concerto; Beethoven (Grosse Fugue). Plus an interview with Peter Altmeyer, the new principal conductor of the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra 7.30pm Performance on 3. Romantic programme of two dramatic symphonic poems and Rachmaninov's much-loved Second Symphony. Jean Higley, mezzo, BBC Symphony Orchestra, under Tadaaki Ochiai. Lachov (The Enchanted Lake); Chausson (Poèmes de l'amour et de la mer); Rachmaninov (Symphony No 2 in E minor) 9.25pm Postscript Parks and Pleasure. Did the Victorians produce the ultimate in fine urban park design or can designers provide parks with what they want today? Susan Marling takes a tour from New York's Central Park, to the Parc Citroën in Paris (3/5) 10.00pm Ensemble. In the first of a new series, Penny Gore introduces the Takacs Quartet performing Schubert (String Quartet in A minor) 10.45pm Night Waves. Humphrey Carpenter talks to George Steiner about his writing in the light of his new book *Ernst: An Examination*. Humphrey Carpenter talks to writers and critics about the legacy of the playwright Joe Orton as Radio 3 marks the anniversary of his death with productions of *Loaf and Up Against It* 11.30pm Composer of the Week: Verdi (P) 12.30am Jazz Notes, with Doby Lawweather. The final part of the session from the Belgian guitarist Fapy Lafertin and Le Jazz 1.00am Through the Night, with Donald Macleod. Includes at 5.00 Sequence

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 5.55pm Weather 6.00pm Six O'Clock News 6.30pm Round Britain Quiz The North of England meal the Midlands (P) 7.00pm News 7.05pm The Archers 7.20pm The Radio 4 Book Club. John Wale and his team of investigators return for a new eight-part series (P) 7.45pm The National Interest. The first of two programmes in which MPs from opposing parties attempt to reach an agreement on a controversial issue. But will their proposals stand up to scrutiny by the experts? 8.45pm Singular Women. See Choice 9.00pm Action and Reaction. In the first of a new series, Sue Blackmore visits Heysham Nuclear Power Station in Lancashire. With guests Professor John Whitledge, David Mace and Brian Cox 9.30pm Kaleidoscope (P) 9.55pm Weather 10.00pm The World Tonight, with Jeremy Harris 10.45pm Book at Bedtime: Stories by Mark Twain. Read by Kelsey Grammer (3/5) 11.30pm The Cheese Shop Present. Sketches, songs and jokes with Gerard Foster, Dave Lamb, Gordon Southern, Tim Verinder, Ben Ward and Richard Webb (P) 12.00pm News 12.30am The Late Book: The Debt to Pleasure, by John Lanchester. Does the hunter always foresees his success? (7/10) (P) 12.45pm Shipping Forecast (LW) 1.00am As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.8-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 908. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

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Well-intentioned amateurs cannot but fail

You'd have thought that however ill-treated a cow was in the privacy of her own byre, once she was brought to a public market, where roams all manner of animal inspectors and camera crews, she'd be treated with the tenderness accorded a family pet. But no: livestock markets are, it seems, host to all sorts of nastiness in contravention of most major animal protection laws.

It's just the sort of transgression which cries out for a campaigning journalist to make an impassioned half-hour's worth of *Something-Should-Be-Done* and *We-Mane-The-Guilty-Men*. Instead, BBC2's *Private Investigations* got an amateur in to do the job.

I say an amateur television term for it is membership of the public, for *Private Investigations* is the latest in an undulating line of public access programmes in which ordinary people, real people, punters — the term

changes with the fashions in television democracy — are given a chance to make probing TV with, in this case, "as much support as they need from the BBC".

The principle is a simple, seductive one: TV is a medium controlled by those whose dislocated view of the world is that from TV Centre, whose passions are artificially generated to fit the schedules, whose agenda is determined by commercial considerations, not genuine concerns; give a real person the camera, and the film you'll get will be somehow more authentic, more impassioned, more real. And more cheap.

Sometimes the theory works, although usually only when the real person has a real story to tell about themselves. But, while television people may be removed from the real world, most of them know where to point the camera to get the most telling picture and how to frame an interview to make

it most effectively tell the story. These are real skills and if you don't believe that you should see the footage of the Lawless and Snows in their early days.

Margaret Gibbins, billed as a retired bank manager's wife — had she retired or had she? — turned up at the local livestock market and pointed the camera at water troughs full of dung and at cows with their ribs poking through their scraggy hides. Mrs Gibbins interviewed a market manager who believed that the cattle were merely a commodity, and got the Roger Cook treatment when she tried to take the camera into a private market.

In the hands of somebody who knew how to make television films this could have been a powerful, campaigning documentary. Mrs Gibbins gave us a series of flat and

REVIEW



John Diamond

repetitive interviews linked by a pretty typical real person's script, the sort which manages to be both dull and self-referential and explains why the programmes invariably get shoved onto the minority channels.

And why should it be otherwise? If a TV reporter was given a desk at Mrs Gibbins's husband's bank, who would expect the books to balance at the end of the week?

To give Mrs Gibbins her due, she made a better list of it than the other two real people who got a go this week. Barry Thomas made an odd whistling noise whenever he got excited as he investigated the possibilities of improving his memory. He was the sort of old buffer who I imagine now slides up to people in the saloon bar and says: "You know, it's a funny old thing, this memory business. I mean, if I told you there's a bloke who can remember all 52 cards in a pack..."

Next was Ian Boney, whose car had been clamped on private land and who wanted his money back. Again, here was a perfectly good story — cowboy clampers, joke clamping warnings too small to read, lack of statutory control — turned into a personal whinge by a man who hadn't worked out what questions he wanted to ask of the cowboys other than "Are you going to give me my money back or not?"

So why spoil three good stories by giving them to real people? Is the assumption that real people can go where the pros can't? I doubt whether a Cook or a Waite would have been put off filming the cattle sale as easily as was Mrs Gibbins. Do real people know more than the pros? Apparently not: the clamping was stunningly underprepared for his confrontations. Are their worries more genuine? What does it matter, if the results are as last night?

The Dandy in the Underworld (Channel 4) was Marc Bolan, now 20 years dead and, whatever anyone said at the time, a pop star who absolutely wasn't bigger than the Beatles. His memory was held dear for us by a series of balding geezers along the gamut of former rock industry employment, from clever investor to seriously shot-away.

Many of them had managed to maintain their delusions for so long. "He did write fabulous poetry," one contemporary remembered. "The *Warlock of Love* is a serious collection of poetry: there's no doubt in my mind about that." Archive footage showed us that in fact *The Warlock of Love* was meaningless doggerel set to the metre of *The Face on the Barroom Floor*. And it's not just me saying so: Bolan didn't know what the words meant either.

The man who said Bolan was bigger than the Beatles also believed that the piteously stricken artist's zenith with *Telegram Sam*, which proves some sort of point, but it was his manager who had him pegged when he recalled that *Ride a White Swan*. Marc Bolan's best-remembered song, was kept from the number one spot by Clive Dunn singing *Grandad... Ars longa* and all that, eh?

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (92456)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (99987859)
9.00am *Cook, Won't Cook* (T) (282456)
WALE: 9.05 Referendum Call (282456)

9.30 *Style Challenge* A Lancashire schoolboy and his family receive a style makeover in preparation for their big-screen debut (1683456)

9.55 *Kilroy* (T) (5612017)

10.35 *Change That* (175534)

11.00 News (T) and weather (4067611)

11.05 *The Really Useful Show* (T) (907630)

11.35 *Room for Improvement* Sprouting up paintwork: squeaking floorboards (2679630)

12.00 News (T) Regional News and weather (6537833)

12.05pm *Call My Bluff* (981524)

12.35 *Going for the Gold* (9728185)

1.00 News (T) and weather (90901)

1.30 *Regional News* (T) (1761561)

1.40 *The Weather Show* (8750524)

1.45 *Neighbours* (T) (7358104)

2.10 *Quincy* A trucker's grisly death alerts Quincy to the fact that someone is illegally dumping toxic waste all over LA (T) (200443)

3.00 *Through the Keyhole* (7104)

3.30 *Playdays* (931658) 3.50 *Chucklevision* (5304123) 4.10 *Get Your Own Back* (480549)

4.35 *Prince of Atlantis* (T) (899388) 5.00 *Newsround* (T) (9294524)

5.10 *Blue Peter* (T) (5183920)

5.35 *Neighbours* (T) (736768)

6.00 News (T) and weather (833)

6.30 *Regional News* (T) (185)

7.00 *Animal People: Dogs at War* A tribute to Britain's four-legged military heroes, proving that dogs are not only man's best friend — they can also be his staunchest ally in times of conflict (T) (5833)

7.30 *Tomorrow's World* Featuring a machine that can diagnose skin cancer without the need for a biopsy (T) (369)

8.00 *Children's Hospital* Real-life drama from Alder Hey, Liverpool (T) (1253)

8.30 *The National Lottery Live* (T) (768036)

8.45 *Points of View* (T) (758559)

9.00 News (T) and weather (2340)

9.29 *National Lottery Update* (86543)

9.30 *The X-Files: Home Scully and Mulder* continue to the dispiriting task of trying to find out who is responsible for murdering a newborn baby in small-town Pennsylvania (T) (53543)

10.15 *Chalk* New series of the classroom comedy, with David Bamber (T) (721441)

10.45 *A Passion for Murder* (1992) with Michael Nouri. Murder mystery about a beautiful but dangerous woman who is on the run from the police and the Mob. Directed by Neil Fearnley (9335475)

12.10am *Day of the Evil Gun* (1968) starring Glenn Ford and Arthur Kennedy. A former gunfighter, searching for his kidnapped wife and children, is joined by a peaceful neighbour. Directed by Jerry Thorpe (19037)

1.45 *Weather* (2968296)

BBC2

6.00am *Open University: Given Enough* Rope (4802559) 6.25 *Rising Arms* Against Pollution (45144) 6.50 *Designing a Life* (5412494)

7.15 *See Hear* Breakfast News (T) and signing (4552814)

7.30 *Smurfs' Adventures* (T) (9643291) 7.55 *Really Wild Show* (T) (5553588) 8.20 *Penny Crayon* (T) (737524) 8.30 *Tales of Aesop* (T) (744814) 8.35 *Teletubbies* (T) (1237559) 9.00 *Harry and the Hendersons* (T) (2824727) 9.25 *Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars* (b/w) (T) (9202949)

9.45 *Rocky Star* (b/w) (T) (8825746) 9.50 *Cartoon 10.00 Teletubbies* (92494)

10.30 *The Lone Rider Ambushed* (1941, b/w) Western musical, with George Houston (3833920)

11.25 *The Fugitive* (b/w) (T) (6192727) 12.15pm *Unspeakeable Verse* (T) (T) (7396659) 12.30 *Working Lunch* (81678)

1.00 *Maddy* (T) (83919765) 1.10 *Craft Hour* (9282320) 2.10 *Wildlife on Two* (T) (3167545) 2.40 *News* (T) (1072340)

2.45 *Match of the 1970s* (T) (392343) 3.25 *News* (T) (4032524) 3.30 *Real Rooms* (291) 4.00 *Ready, Steady, Cook* (758) 4.30 *Going, Going, Gone* (589859) 4.55 *Easter, Being Chucked* (T) (7481833) 5.25 *Today's the Day* (5186017) 5.50 *Lifeline* (486384)

6.00 *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (89291)

6.45 *As Seen on TV* (T) (783630)

7.00 *Wales: A Nation Divided?* The political history of Wales (3475)

7.30 *Conjuring Shakespeare* Bringing Shakespeare to a contemporary audience (T) (611)

8.00 *University Challenge* Birkbeck College v Cardiff University (T) (2123)

8.30 *The Antiques Show* New series exploring all aspects of the antiques world (T) (1630)

9.00 *The Nazis: A Warning from History* (2/6) How ordinary people collaborated (T) (210272)

9.50 *Behind the Lines* (3/4) The Royal Marines' Mountain and Arctic Warfare Cadre (T) (744340)

10.28 *Video Nation Shorts* (424036)

10.30 *Newsnight* (T) (814920)

11.15 *Over the Edge* New series of disabled programme-makers (447217)

11.45 *Walking on Thin Ice* (3/5) (854475)

12.05am *Duckman* (3575505)

12.30 *O.U. Jack and Black Holes* (13215)

1.00 *Cosmology on Trial* (27079) 1.30 *Earth, Life and Humanity* (T) (312828) 2.00 *Perfect Pictures* (63055) 4.00 *Understanding Dyslexia* (17536) 5.30 *So You Want to Work in Social Care?* (37363)

12.00 *News* (T) (814920)

12.05am *Duckman* (3575505)

12.30 *O.U. Jack and Black Holes* (13215)

1.00 *Cosmology on Trial* (27079) 1.30 *Earth, Life and Humanity* (T) (312828) 2.00 *Perfect Pictures* (63055) 4.00 *Understanding Dyslexia* (17536) 5.30 *So You Want to Work in Social Care?* (37363)

1.45 *Weather* (2968296)

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HTV

6.00am GMTV (7468475)
9.25 *Supermarket Sweep* (T) (2814340)
9.55 *Regional News* (T) (1371901)

10.00 *The Time, the Place* (79920)

10.30 *This Morning* (T) (18189104)

12.20pm *Regional News* (T) (6533017)

12.30 *News* (T) and weather (9714982)

12.55 *Shortland Street* (9729001) 1.25 *Home and Away* (T) (5845652) 1.50 *Remote Control* (T) (7364765) 2.20 *Vanessa* (T) (75681748) 2.50 *The Natural Health Show* (303475)

3.20 *News* (T) (406307)

3.25 *Regional News* (T) (4063678)

3.30 *Top TV* (T) (1719524) 3.40 *The Parties* (752456) 3.50 *The New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh* (T) (5145727) 4.20 *Extreme Ghostbusters* (T) (489901)

4.45 *It's a Mystery* (T) (897340)

5.10 *Wales: The National Amateur* (238456)

5.10 *Van Can Cook — the Best of Chris* (263456)

5.40 *News* (T) and weather (519456)

6.00 *Home and Away* (T) (583253)

6.25 *HTV Weather* (262562)

6.30 *HTV News* (T) (253)

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CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 *A Country Practice* (9722901)
9.50-10.40 *Shortland Street* (2638456)

6.25-7.00 *Central News* (740727)

10.40-11.40 *In Suspicious Circumstances* (196949)

12.40pm *Film: The Outside Woman* (1989). A thriller starring Sharon Gless (822296)

4.05 *Central Jobfinder* '97 (7608942)

5.20 *Asian Eye* (1271470)

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NETBALL 40

England coach puts grand plan into operation

SPORT

SAILING 42

Dickson puts final touches to Whitbread Challenge



WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 17 1997

Salonika earn first-leg advantage after Wenger's attacking policy is punished

Greeks spoil Arsenal's adventure

PAOK Salonika 1
Arsenal 0

FROM MATT DICKINSON
IN THESSALONIKI

ARSENAL, for so long the champions of continental caution, paid dearly for a new-found boldness in the Uefa Cup first round here last night. Arsène Wenger's team came to Greece with victory their barely disguised aim, if not their expectation, but left facing a huge challenge in the second leg at Highbury after a defeat that was by no means unmerited by a PAOK Salonika side that had been hoping simply for a draw.

All the warnings about an intimidating crowd had not been misplaced but it seemed to inspire rather than inhibit Arsenal in the early stages.

Certainly Ian Wright revelled in the prematch baiting of a fanatical crowd but the Arsenal striker, lifted by his recent brace for England and his grasp of the club's goalscoring record, would not

Call for change 44
Sheringham fit 45
Newcastle's task 45

feel threatened at a meeting of the Tottenham Hotspur supporters' club.

Wright drew piercing whistles from every corner of the packed ground by clapping his hands to his ears in mock deafness to their taunts.

With a sea of black-and-white shirts and flags in the Toumba Stadium, the 40,000 members of the Tomb Army, as they were soon named, were an impressive sight to behold. Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, had told his players that the only way to silence them was with an early goal and that looked feasible in the opening quarter of an hour, as his side settled to their task with admirable calm.

Gradually, though, errors began to creep in as passes drifted carelessly astray and tackles failed to connect and the visiting team finished the first half stretched. A booking for Wright for dissent — will



Vieira, the Arsenal midfielder player, attempts to find a way past the ranks of Greek defenders during the Uefa Cup first round, first leg in Thessaloniki last night

he never learn? — highlighted the growing frustration and only David Seaman's fingertips diverted a long-range free kick from its path to goal on to a post.

Those scares came despite the predicted return of Tony Adams, the captain, for his first start of the season after recovering from a rib injury.

The England international's comeback allowed Arsenal to parade a back four that had long since proved its worthiness in Europe, lifting the Cup

Wingers' Cup under George Graham.

Early comfort soon gave way to end-to-end excitement, however, but this was never going to be the kind of exercise in cautious containment that was the basis for Graham's success.

Wenger had insisted before this tie that his team would come here to win against a Greek side that regarded itself as the underdog, and his selection of Nicolas Anelka for his first start in an Arsenal shirt was proof of those bold intentions. The French teenager has more pace than Wright and potentially more ability, but it was asking a lot to expect an 18-year-old to make an impact.

Wenger's adventurous selection looked a wise gamble in the opening period when the Arsenal central midfield of Patrick Vieira and Emmanuel Petit probed the PAOK defence, releasing Overmars for several penetrating runs along the left wing.

Petit's left-foot free kick from the edge of the penalty area had to be well saved and Anelka was only foiled in front of goal by a desperate lunge. Gradually, the Greeks grew in confidence and Konstantinos Fratzekos twice forced excellent saves from Seaman.

The first, after 22 minutes, was direct from a corner that the Arsenal goalkeeper tipped over the crossbar. The second,

after Petit had given away a free kick 25 yards from goal and Wright had earned a caution for his protest, was even better as he flung himself to his right, flicking the ball on to the upright.

The game, played at a high tempo, was as open as Wenger had predicted and chances were plentiful by any standards, particularly those of a first leg of a European tie. Wright shot narrowly wide from the edge of the penalty area just after the restart but the Arsenal defence were not without their moments of panic.

Arsenal's boldness was always going to be accompanied by danger and the Greeks finally exploited their lack of

caution by taking the lead after 61 minutes.

It was by no means against the run of play because the visitors had frequently been forced on to the back foot, with Adams forced into an important tackle when he found himself the last man in defence against the onrushing Paraschos Zoumpoulis.

Seaman had saved well from Fratzekos five minutes before the goal when the Greek international, PAOK's outstanding midfielder player, had broken through the Arsenal rearguard with alarming ease. But the goalkeeper was helpless when his opponent again sprinted around the back of a flat defence, ripping past Nigel

Winterburn and sliding his shot from 12 yards under Seaman from Zafeiriou's through-ball.

By then, Arsenal had already lost much of their momentum and Wenger tried to liven things up by throwing on Luis Boa Morte and David Platt. Their frustrations only mounted, however, with Adams picking up a caution as angry words were exchanged with the Spanish referee.

PAOK SALONIKA (4-4-2): N Michopoulos; I Zaporozh, A Tsakopoulos, M Kolobouras, P Oliveira — G Tzourounidis (sub: P Sotgiropoulos, 71min), J Naghe (sub: C Vela, 74), K Fratzekos, A Zafeiriou — Z Vryzas (sub: D Kapetanopoulos, 58), P Zoumpoulis.
ARSENAL (4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, S Bouad, A Adams, N Winterburn — R Parlor (sub: D Platt, 70), P Vieira, E Pelt, M Overmars (sub: L Boa Morte, 70) — N Anelka (sub: C Weir, 81), I Wright.
Referee: M Vega (Spain)

Hodge and Birtles to press claim against Anderlecht

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

FORMER Nottingham Forest players could gain thousands of pounds in compensation now that Anderlecht have admitted paying the referee before the start of the 1984 Uefa Cup semi-final between the clubs.

Forest intend suing for £1.5 million after the Belgian club's statement that the referee, who is now dead, was given £18,000, although it is claimed that the money paid him was only a loan.

But this is being challenged by former Forest players, including Garry Birtles and Steve Hodge, both England internationals, who have decided to join Forest's legal battle for redress.

Forest won the first leg at home 2-0 but lost the return leg 3-0. During the second match, the referee, Gerasimo Muro, who was killed in a car crash in 1987, disallowed a Forest goal, gave Anderlecht an unlikely penalty and allowed another goal which most neutral observers said should not have been given.

Victory in the semi-final would have given Forest a lucrative final against Tottenham. Instead, the London club beat Anderlecht to take the trophy.

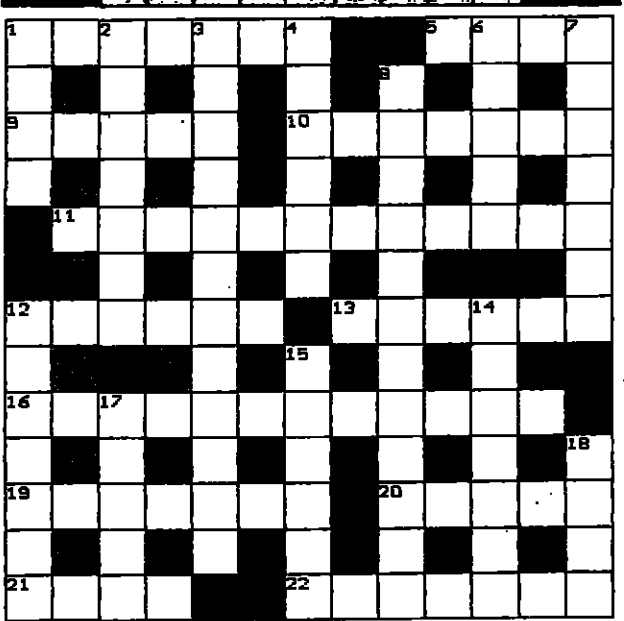
Phil Soar, Nottingham Forest's chief executive, said yesterday that players could now claim compensation individually. If they are successful, this could take the total pay-out by Anderlecht to more than £2 million.

Birtles, who won two European Cup-Winners' Cup medals with Forest under Brian Clough, said: "Players get well rewarded for winning European competitions and we had that snatched from us. If the club wins compensation it's only right the players should also be involved."

Forest have had legal experts in Belgium working on the case since March, with the aim of making a civil claim. Peter Beardsley could miss Bolton Wanderers' Premiership match against Manchester United on Saturday after being knocked unconscious in a training ground accident yesterday.

Beardsley collided with Jamie Pollock and was thought to have broken a cheekbone, but the first set of X-rays indicated no serious damage.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1201

ACROSS

- 1 Maths, using letters (7)
- 5 Walked on (4)
- 9 Wander widely (5)
- 10 Diamond shape (7)
- 11 Promote away from real power (4,8)
- 12 Werther, Wilhelm Meister author (6)
- 13 Went by; approved (6)
- 16 As eg Scots church, elder-ruler (12)
- 19 Very strong, forceful (7)
- 20 Tolerate; live (5)
- 21 Material from worms (4)
- 22 Moscow citadel (7)

DOWN

- 1 Emanation; distinctive quality (4)
- 2 What it claims to be (7)
- 3 (As gambler) ruin the house (5,3,4)
- 4 Sudden (6)
- 6 Jewish teacher (5)
- 7 No longer in service (7)
- 8 As eg Austin, Tennison, Day-Lewis (4,8)
- 12 Nomads (7)
- 14 Dogs one grovellingly devoted (7)
- 15 Flash; lucky run (6)
- 17 Praise highly (5)
- 18 Average; grudging (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1200

ACROSS: 1 Clip 3 Inhibit 8 Sultana 9 Lunar 10 Night 11 Layette 13 Bullfight 17 Dreyfus 19 Alone 20 Ether 22 Impetus 23 Berserk 24 Stun
DOWN: 1 Casino 2 Illegible 3 In a cleft stick 4 Holly 5 Ben 6 Turret 7 Pastel 12 Tilt for tat 14 Grappa 15 Adverb 16 Lesson 18 Forge 21 Hur

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Woodward takes up England reins

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

CLIVE WOODWARD was confirmed yesterday as the new England coach, two months before the series of four games against the three southern-hemisphere powers that will give the steepest possible test of his mettle. The Rugby Football Union (RFU) will introduce him at Bisham Abbey this morning, alongside Roger Utley who will be the team manager.

Both Woodward, 41, and Utley, 48, who coached England between 1987-91, have agreed three-year contracts with the RFU that will take them up to and beyond the 1999 World Cup and into the new millennium. Their appointments end an embarrassing two months in which the RFU fell out with Jack Rowell, Woodward's predecessor, who resigned in August because he could no longer afford the time to devote to the role that the union required.

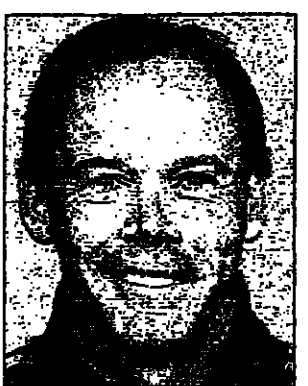
It was always the RFU's hope that Utley would take over the manager's role, even when Rowell was still on board. After his resignation, the union found itself up against club contracts that limited the availability of leading contenders for the coaching post, but Woodward will make light of the fact that he was far from an automatic choice.

"The chance of coaching England was one I just couldn't turn down," the former Leicester centre said. "I have been keen to bring my own ideas into the England set-up at senior level."

Those ideas were consolidated during a five-year playing spell in Australia, but Woodward only stepped on to

the representative coaching ladder last year, joining Andy Robinson, of Bath, as coach to the England Under-21 team. That association took him to Bath last season as backs coach and, this summer, he and Rob Smith — who will find a place in the overall England coaching structure — coached the under-21s in Australia. Bath are understood to have been compensated by the RFU for Woodward's loss.

Rumours of Woodward's appointment had already provoked some debate. Geoff



Woodward: full-time role

Cooke, who coached England to the grand slam in 1991 and 1992, said: "It worries me when I see Clive's record and volatility. He is up and down and I have question marks about him. I read recently someone saying how valuable it was that Clive had performed in the international field and therefore understood the game. My view is so what? That was in 1980 and what relevance has that to today's game?"

Ideas man, page 43

Fighting players called to account

By DAVID HANDS

WHILE Brive pressed for a postponement of Saturday's Heineken Cup meeting with Bath, and Pontypridd tried to deflect responsibility for the bar-room brawl which followed their game against the French team on Sunday, there were calls yesterday for better policing of European matches by the officials involved.

Bob Dwyer, who takes his Leicester side to Toulouse on Saturday, asked why no action had been taken by the match commissioner at Brive, where a player from each side was dismissed and there were numerous stoppages for unruly violence. "What we need is closer scrutiny of games," Dwyer said. "The fact that no action has been taken by way of citing is ridiculous."

Dwyer has long been critical of rugby union's disciplinary response to foul play, compared with that of rugby league. "They have a genuine, honest desire to rid the game of foul play," the Leicester director of rugby said. "They encourage hard play but they look at it very strictly."

"Here, we have a game in which we can all see deliberate acts of foul play, yet players get away with it because someone can't be bothered to take action, or they think it's not the done thing."

The three Pontypridd players, Dale McIntosh, Phil John and André Barnard, accused of involvement in the brawl that left three France internationals injured — the reason why Brive seek a postponement — returned home yesterday but could be recalled by the French police for further examination. Twelve Brive players are due to be ques-

tioned before further investigation is made.

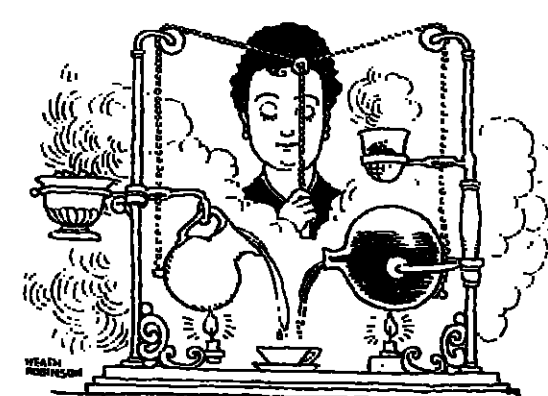
The tournament organisers, European Rugby Cup Ltd (ERC), stage an emergency board meeting in Dublin today at which representatives of Brive and Pontypridd, as well as match officials, can give evidence regarding the on-field violence, though it is the events of the evening and the involvement of club supporters that will exercise the board.

"There was a fracas but it is wrong to claim that Pontypridd players were the ones responsible," Sam Simon, the Pontypridd president and a solicitor, said. The Welsh Rugby Union has condemned the alleged incidents and will require a report from Pontypridd. However, determining responsibility at a time when police investigations into the affair are proceeding will create a problem for ERC, who have been faced with calls for both clubs to be suspended from the competition; that would also create embarrassment for Bath and Scottish Borders, host clubs to Brive and Pontypridd respectively on Saturday, who expect record crowds and substantial match sponsorship.

However, the tournament in particular and the game as a whole must come before individual club arrangements. It will be incumbent upon all competing teams this weekend to make up for the shadow lying over the competition, in particular at the two games in France — in Toulouse and in Pau, where Caledonia Reds are the visitors.

Gerald Davies, page 43

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